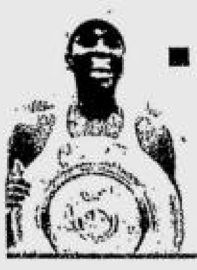


■ Sports / A29
Williams nips Davenport in longest Wimbledon final

■ Business / B1
Petron gets tax perks for P9B worth of projects

■ World / A8
G8 faces pressure on Africa poverty, global warming

■ Across / A17
RP-MILF peace talks resume this month

■ News / A2
Panganiban to replace Yap as agri chief

Joker breaks silence at last, berates opposition, Reds

BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG NAGSALITA?

By Norman Bordadora

HE WAS the eminence grise in Corazon Aquino's march from the streets to Malacañang.

In the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, he

JOKER/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Federer whips Roddick

WIMBLEDON, England—Roger Federer claimed a hat-trick of Wimbledon men's singles titles with a comfortable 6-2, 7-6, 6-4 victory over Andy Roddick on Sunday. The Swiss world No. 1 joined Bjorn Borg and Pete Sampras as the only men to win three singles titles in a row at the All England Club since tennis turned professional in 1968. The 23-year-old, who was superb throughout, not only secured his 21st consecutive victory in a final but also extended his winning streak on grass to 36 matches. *Reuters*

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, July 4, 2005 ★★★ 80 pages / 9 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 206 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Educators, lawyers ask GMA to resign

Catholic schools to decide on Gloriagate stand

By Christine O. Avendaño, Alcuin Papa and Luige A. del Puerto

JUST when Malacañang thought political tensions had ebbed for the middle class, a growing number of educators and professionals, upset by allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in last year's elections, joined calls for her to step down.

Among those pressing Ms Arroyo to resign were administrators of De La Salle University (DLSU) and affiliated schools, the University of the Philippines College of Law, the Jose W. Diokno Foundation and the Kapatiran Party.

DLSU, an upscale Roman Catholic school with nearly 100,000 students nationwide, was the first important institution to add its voice to the clamor for Ms Arroyo's resignation that had been mainly pushed so far by the opposition, a cluster of ex-generals and left-wing groups.

"Resignation would prevent the person from dragging the whole Philippines down, and we feel it has reached that point," DLSU president Br. Armin Luistro FSC said.

Two lawyers groups—the Committee for the Defense of Lawyers (Codal) and the Free Legal Assistance Group—have also joined calls for the President to leave Malacañang.

The middle class, broadly defined as professionals, entrepreneurs and other groups not considered the economic elite or the poor, formed the backbone of Ms Arroyo's support, both during the Edsa II uprising that toppled President Joseph Estrada in January 2001 and the presidential election last year.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the decision of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo

EDUCATORS/ A6

Crisis options boil down to how GMA will go

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE CURRENT impasse over the embattled presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has crystallized three options to avert the descent of the political crisis into anarchy in the streets.

The first is the resignation of the President, which her opponents are relentlessly pushing; the second, impeachment; and the third, another massive people power movement that would either forcibly and bodily remove Ms Arroyo from Malacañang or give reason for the military to withdraw support from her administration, precipitating its collapse.

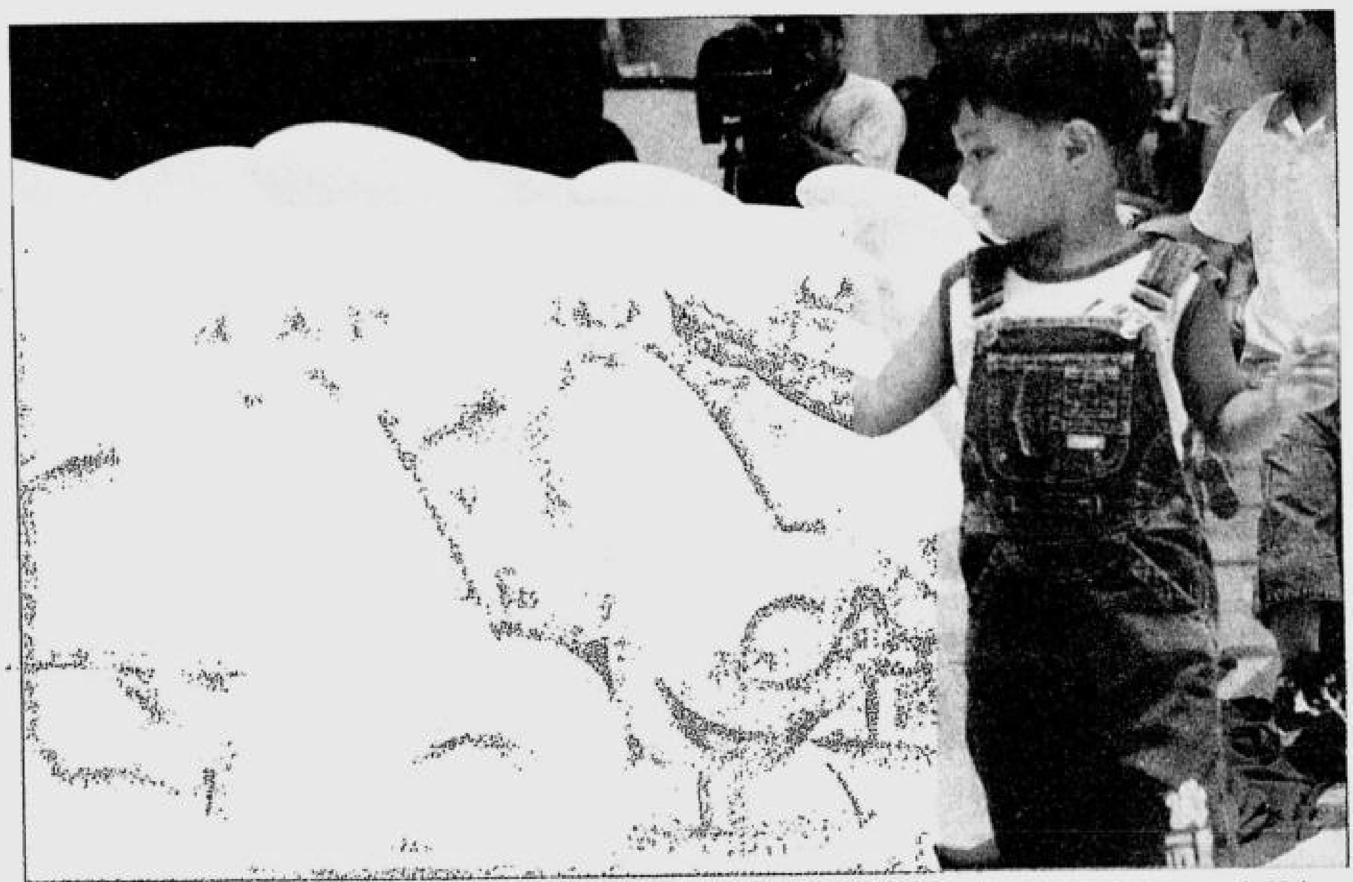
None of these options is pleasant to contemplate either by Ms Arroyo, her opponents, or the rest of the nation. Whatever route is taken to break the dangerous stalemate, the nation will certainly pay a high political cost, in terms of the political consequences, without precluding the meltdown of its constitutional system.

Clearly, this crisis presents the most severe test to the resilience of the constitutional order since the establishment of the democratic republic in 1946.

The situation has gotten to such a critical stage that these options have boiled down to the key issue: How will Ms Arroyo go? The issue overrides the question of how long can she hold up against the siege.

The impasse has hardened as the President

CRISIS/ A21



IS IT real? A little boy plays with the giant "Guyitos" on display at the Glorietta Activity Center during the INQUIRER's 20th anniversary kick-off yesterday. Guyito is the paper's carabao mascot. ERIK ARAZAS

Countdown to PDI's 20th year on

THE INQUIRER yesterday launched the six-month countdown to its 20th anniversary with the unveiling of the company's 20th anniversary logo and offering daylong fun activities for its readers and supporters at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Philippine Daily Inquirer president Alexandra "Sandy" Prieto-Romualdez and editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc unveiled the new logo with a symbolic "page-turning" of a giant newspaper-cum-video screen on a stage.

"Today marks a significant milestone for us," Prieto-Romualdez said in a speech before the ceremony. "To be able to have come this far is no easy feat. We have encountered numerous challenges and difficulties along the way, but because of your unwavering confidence in us, we have remained steadfast in our commitment."

Prieto-Romualdez said the INQUIRER's anniversary logo, which has both barbed wire and laurel leaves, symbolized this journey.

"It describes the cycle of growth in an organization where you go through a period of pain and struggle. But you rise above that, grow from the experience, and emerge a stronger institution," she explained.

"The barbed wire symbolizes that as a news organization, we hope to expose the wrong and at the same time, we want to inspire by writing and applauding the good. The barbed wire also represents the early years of the INQUIRER. This is meant to remind us of our struggle, where we have bravely stood for and fought for the truth," she said.

"The laurel leaves symbolize peace and our commit-

COUNTDOWN / A22

INQUIRER
Inquirer turns 20

PDI Chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto welcomes INQUIRER readers and supporters to the launch of the six-month-long celebration.

Radioman shot dead in South Cotabato

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A gang of motorcyclists yesterday shot and killed Rolando "Dodong" Morales, a hard-hitting radio commentator known for his campaign against illegal drugs in South Cotabato.

The 43-year-old Morales was the sixth journalist killed this year and the 69th since the restoration of democracy in the country in 1986.

Colleagues and witnesses said Morales had just completed his regular 4-5 p.m. Sunday program over dwMD Radio Mindanao-Radyo Agong and was riding on his motorcycle along the national highway in Polomolok town when he was attacked.

Witnesses said the assailants were in a group of eight men on four motorbikes. Apparently to make sure Morales was dead, the gunmen still opened fire on him as he lay slumped on the road, they said.

Bong Gonzales, a reporter of Radyo Agong in this city, told the INQUIRER that Morales had been receiving death threats apparently because of his commentaries against illegal drugs.

Although not a regular employee of Radyo Agong, Morales

RADIOMAN/ A6

Bishops form panel for interim gov't

By Christian V. Esguerra

JUMPING the gun on Malacañang, three Catholic bishops calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo have set up a panel to scout around for members of a transition government—if she resigns.

"We will go by track record and we will not include the traditional politicians, including everybody in the present government, because they were all products of the same rotten system," Bishop Antonio Tobias said yesterday.

The outspoken prelate of Novaliches told the INQUIRER that the transition government that he and his fellow bishops had in mind was intended to prevent chaos in case Ms Arroyo left office.

Tobias said he and Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez and Julio Xavier Labayen had given their blessings to the committee of five members.

The committee is headed by Fr. Tony Labiao of Novaliches and includes:

BISHOPS/ A6

Fil-Am actress coming for Tondo show

GIOVANNIE Pico: New Filipino face on "ER."

By Nikko Dizon

FILIPINO-AMERICAN actress Giovannie Pico plays Ludlow, a character with no defined ethnicity in the Emmy-award winning TV show "ER."

But the fact that Filipino doctors and nurses have become fixtures in the American medical community is not lost on the 26-year-old actress.

"I think if they wanted it (the role) to be Filipina, they could write a Filipino dialogue," Pico told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview from her San Francisco home.

In one episode a few seasons back, Pico said, a nurse had a line in Tagalog where she talked about *dinuguan*.

"ER" is an American TV show about the drama that unfolds in a Chicago hospital's emergency room.

"In Chicago, there are a lot of Filipinos that make up the nursing population," Pico said.

In the same way that Filipino doctors and nurses have found success in America, so has this actress who decided to pursue acting in earnest only two years ago.

Pico described ER as her "first real Hollywood job"—admitting that she still gets star-struck on the set, especially with gorgeous and talented actors like Noah Wyle, Shane West and Mekhi Phifer around.

"I was, oh my God, *nakanganga* (open-mouthed). *Nakaka*-shock (I'm still shocked). You see these people [on TV] and then there—they are right in front of you," Pico said.

With her "ER" coup, Pico is among the latest crop of Filipino-American talents doing well in America.

FIL-AM/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/04/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

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Panganiban is new aggie chief

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appointed an old hand at the Department of Agriculture as its new secretary.

Former Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban, who joined the DA in 1961, will replace outgoing Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap who resigned last week in order to face tax evasion charges filed against him.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Panganiban was expected to take over the agriculture portfolio on July 15.

Panganiban had served a short stint as acting agriculture secretary during the term of President Joseph Estrada. He succeeded Edgardo Angara as agriculture secretary in January 2001 after the latter became Estrada's executive secretary.

Production expert

An expert in food production with more than 40 years of experience, Panganiban will be the only agriculture secretary with a degree in agriculture. He obtained a BS Agriculture degree from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños. He majored in agronomy and plant protection. He holds a masteral degree in Public Administration from UP.

Yap welcomed the appointment of Panganiban.

"I welcome (his appointment). Panganiban is a former DA officer in charge and presently my senior adviser for the national rice program," Yap told the INQUIRER.

"He is most competent and I have a great working relationship with him," he added.

UN consultant

Yap said that Panganiban's expertise was not only recognized in the country. He said Panganiban was also a consultant for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Office in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Leonardo Montemayor, another former agriculture secretary, acknowledged that Panganiban was an old hand at the department, having held various key positions in its bureaus.

"He (Panganiban) knows the department and its problems," Montemayor said.

PANGANIBAN

Asked how other farmers' groups would receive the new secretary, Montemayor said the farmers knew of the latter's long experience at the DA "but they want to see him show greater concern to small farmer's groups, especially with the government's thrust on promoting agribusiness."

Not happy

But other groups like the Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) were not happy with Panganiban's appointment.

PPI executive director Omi Royondoyan said farmers' groups did not see Panganiban as someone who would take up the interest of small farmers.

The President should have appointed someone close to small farmers like former Trade Secretary Ernesto Ordoñez, Royondoyan said.

Panganiban, however, has expressed willingness to sit down with all the players in the agriculture industry to obtain their support.

Cooperation

"It's important to get the cooperation of the various stakeholders in the industry. They're the ones behind agriculture and we'd have a problem if they don't support the (Department of Agriculture)," Panganiban told the INQUIRER.

At the time of the INQUIRER's interview with Panganiban, he had yet to receive his appointment as the new DA chief.

Panganiban confirmed that he was offered the job and had discussed the portfolio with the President.

Panganiban joined the DA in 1961 as a plant pest control worker at the Bureau of Plant Industry in Zamboanga City. He rose through the ranks and became director of the bureau in 1975. He was at one time deputy minister in the Marcos Ministry of Agriculture and Food, executive director of the National Food and Agriculture Council, and acting director of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension.

Undersecretary

In 1996, he was appointed DA undersecretary, a position he held for almost five years.

Panganiban was one of the contenders for secretary of agriculture when Ms Arroyo became president.

But Ms Arroyo instead appointed Leonardo Montemayor who was later replaced by Luis Lorenzo Jr. in the Cabinet revamp of November 2002. When Lorenzo resigned in July last year, he was replaced by Arthur Yap.

Masagana 99

Panganiban was part of the Masagana 99 rice productivity program of Ferdinand Marcos and Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco in the 1970s. The Philippines not only became self-sufficient in rice production at the time but also exported the staple to other countries.

Born on Aug. 9, 1939, Panganiban is married to Madelina Tapia Yambao of Jaen, Nueva Ecija. They have three children.

With PDI Research

Lomibao admits being in South during polls

By Luige A. del Puerto

A POLICE general mentioned in the "Gloriagate tapes" has admitted being in Mindanao during the 2004 election period, a police spokesperson said yesterday.

Over the weekend, the Armed Forces of the Philippines also welcomed a probe into the alleged involvement of ranking generals in a purported conspiracy to tilt the results of the 2004 election in President Macapagal-Arroyo's favor.

"Yes, (he was there during) election time," said Philippine National Police spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, referring to PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

But Bataoil denied there was anything irregular in Lomibao's visit, maintaining that his boss flew to Mindanao not to help anyone cheat but to oversee an investigation.

Responsibility

"He was then the director of CIDG (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group) and he had his units all over the country and it was his responsibility to look after them, their activities and performance, and ensure that they were doing their jobs," he said.

He added: "He was there to supervise an ongoing investigation (by the CIDG)."

When he is called to Congress, Lomibao himself will give details of his work in Mindanao at the time, Bataoil said.

The opposition has claimed that massive vote-padding and -shaving (*dagdag-bawas*) took place in Mindanao, especially in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Military officials

Besides Lomibao, three ranking military officials were also implicated in the supposed conspiracy to rig the results of the presidential elections.

The names of now retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon came up in the taped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

In the tapes, the man believed to be Garcillano told the woman believed to be Ms Arroyo that he had to talk to Esperon and Kyamko so that a General Gudani would be transferred out of Marawi City. They suspected the man believed to be former 1st Marine Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani to be working for the opposition.

Also in the tapes, "Garcillano" told the "President" that Lomibao was already in Zamboanga and that people were to "talk to him so that they will be able to prevent (garbled) happened."

Welcome probe

"Garcillano" also mentioned a General Habacon whom he blamed for not properly reconciling the records of election results from Basilan.

On Thursday, Esperon, then deputy chief of staff for operations (J3) and the incoming chief of the Philippine Army, said he welcomed an investigation so he could clear his name.

He maintained that the elections in Mindanao and elsewhere were clean and credible.

Illegally obtained

"I would welcome any investigation anytime (but) the tape to me is something that was obtained illegally and could not be a basis for any decent discussion," he said in a chance interview.

Also last week, acting AFP spokesperson Col. Gilberto Abanto said the military would welcome an inquiry into the conduct of officers during the last elections.

"The military organization welcomes any probe or inquiry that will investigate the alleged involvement of several top AFP officers in poll fraud committed during the last national elections," Abanto said in a statement.

"Any AFP personnel found to have violated the country's election code will be punished to the full extent of the law," he added.

Abu Sayyaf frees trader it held for 3 months

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A restaurant owner kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on Mindanao was freed yesterday after 85 days in captivity, the military said.

Renato Yanga, 44, had been seized on Jolo, a stronghold of the al-Qaida-linked group, the military said.

The victim is a cousin of Senior Supt. Mario Yanga, police chief of this city, where numerous Abu Sayyaf members have been arrested recently.

The gunmen had demanded a P5-million ransom for Yanga's freedom, but Army commander Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo said no money was paid.

Aleo said Yanga was freed before dawn and was escorted to the house of Suod Tan, Jolo's town mayor.

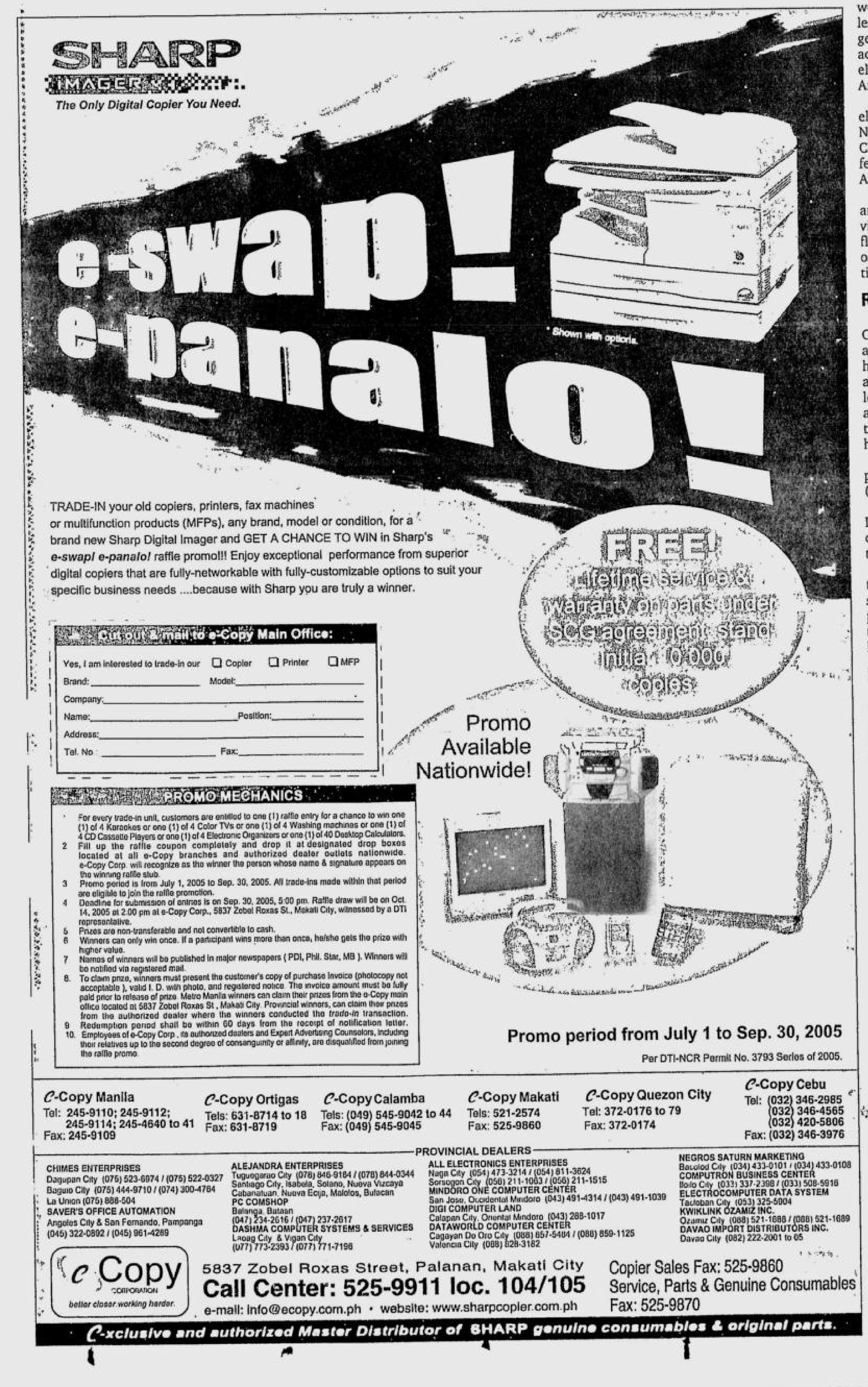
"Yanga was released without ransom according to the mayor," Aleo said. "Perhaps the kidnappers were tired of holding him or maybe got pressured by our continued pursuit of them."

The Abu Sayyaf has been linked by the US and Philippine governments to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. The group has been involved in a series of high-profile abductions in recent years.

An Abu Sayyaf faction is still holding Indonesian seaman Ahmad Resimyadi. He was kidnapped along with two other colleagues by rebels who boarded their boat off Mindanao in March.

The two other Indonesian hostages were rescued last month and have been reunited with their families.

AFP



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Abad, 'apologist for fraud,' must resign, say tutors

A MILITANT teachers' group yesterday demanded the resignation of Education Secretary Florencio Abad for being "an apologist for fraud."

In a statement, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) said Abad should resign after suggesting that President Macapagal-Arroyo's apology for her "lapse in judgment" in speaking to an election official during the canvassing of votes in last year's election be taught in the public schools as a "good lesson" in humility coming from no less than the "highest official of the land."

On Sunday, Abad was quoted as saying that Ms Arroyo's televised apology and her efforts to do penance may be made part of class discussions in the public schools.

"The vast majority of the people have rejected GMA's so-called apology as a barefaced collection of evasions, half-truths and outright lies. It was a desperate political ploy intended to keep her presidency afloat. She admitted to a mere lapse in judgment even though the taped conversations reveal without a doubt that Ms Arroyo had a direct hand in rigging last year's election," said ACT chair Antonio Tinio.

Tinio, however, noted that the President had refused to admit that she committed the most profound betrayal of the public trust by subverting the people's will.

He said that Ms Arroyo "sets the worst example for our youth. How can we ever teach students that cheating in examinations is wrong if a president who cheated her way to office is let off the hook with a mere I-am-sorry?"

"Now here comes the secretary of education, the highest government functionary charged with the education of our youth, suggesting that GMA's self-serving prevarication be taught to children as an example of good values. That's unconscionable," Tinio said.

Tinio said ACT had expected Abad "to stand up for full disclosure regarding the allegations of cheating."

"Instead, he has chosen to play the role of apologist for Ms Arroyo. He is now an accomplice to fraud because he participates in covering it up. In placing political loyalty above integrity and decency in public office, Secretary Abad has proven himself to be unfit to hold such a sensitive position. The education of our youth cannot be entrusted to this man and the regime he serves," Tinio said.

Alcuin Papa

Poor quality of education costing Pinoys jobs—Abad

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Only two of every 100 Filipinos get jobs in call centers. The rest are shut out because they cannot speak or write English well.

This trend, Education Secretary Florencio Abad said, highlights the "poor quality" of Philippine education.

"We are not able to produce enough graduates to take on the high-paying jobs of the knowledge industry," Abad told reporters here on Saturday after addressing an education summit organized by the city government.

The implications of the country's "serious education crisis" are huge, he said.

"We have to realize the competition out there is very intense and so if our children are not equipped with the necessary competencies, then we will lose out in the job market or in attracting foreign investors," Abad said.

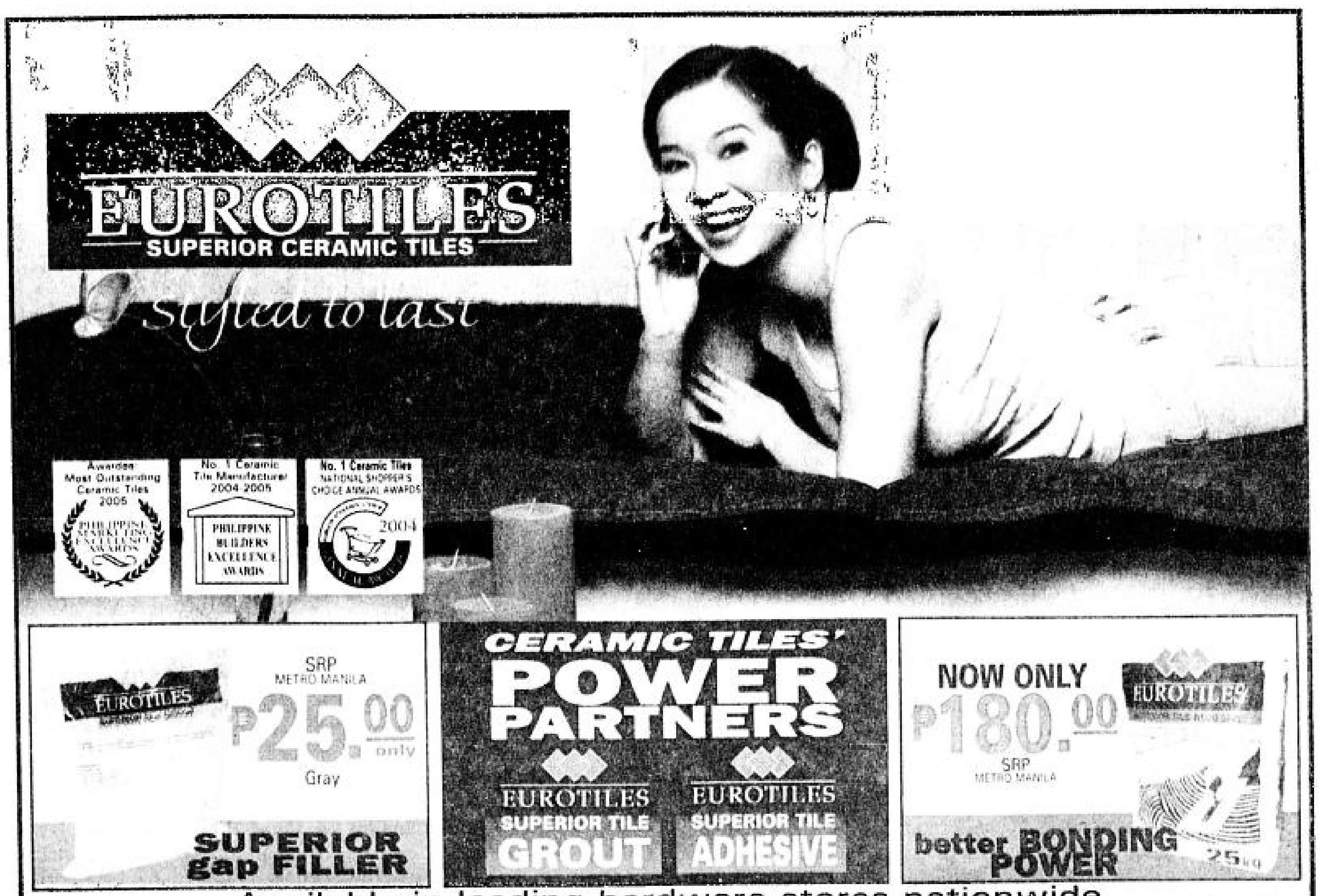
The low proficiency of students in English, math and science subjects is a "real problem," he said.

The national achievement tests given early this year showed that Grade 6 students in the public schools had only an average mastery level of 60 percent in the three subjects, while those in the public high schools registered a 45-percent mastery level.

The scores were below the 75-percent minimum mastery level set by the Department of Education, Abad said.

Abad said the magnitude of the problem is even made worse by the fact that only 32 of every 100 schoolchildren manage to finish high school.

He also said some high school graduates lacked the minimum mastery level to cope with college work. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*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By Nikko Dizon

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Wan smile

The First Gentleman did not speak to the media who covered his arrival, but he waved and smiled at them wanly before entering the presidential lounge, which was made off limits to the media.

He and his entourage were met by airport officials led by general manager Alfonso Cusi, reportedly a close friend of the First Gentleman.

Jess Santos, the First Gentleman's lawyer, said in a phone interview that he was not sure if Arroyo would leave for the United States tomorrow, as a well-placed airport source told the INQUIRER earlier.

Estrada trial

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Arroyo had been summoned to appear as a witness in the plunder trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

It is believed he would be asked to testify on his and his wife's supposed meetings with military generals one year before Estrada was ousted from the presidency. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Hopes up for return of Balangiga bells

By Rita Villadiego
Contributor

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Medroso flew back to Manila last week after a campaign to reclaim the historic bells, which American soldiers captured as war booty in 1901 and have been in US possession for more than 100 years.

While in the United States, the prelate sent out petitions to members of the US Congress, including Democrat Sen. Hillary Clinton, to seek their support for the return of the bronze church bells.

He said his people were longing to hear the bells peal again.

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The vote followed lengthy meetings of veterans who analyzed historical data. One of them, Wyoming's Joe Sestak, enlightened the group on the history of the bells and their role in US-Philippine relations.

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Medroso has collected over 2,800 signatures from his parish in support of his crusade.

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'Howling wilderness'

Sharon Delmendo, associate professor at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, wrote that after the attack, American forces retaliated and transformed the island into a "howling wilderness."

They burned villages in a scorched-earth campaign. According to accounts, Gen. Jake Smith ordered Filipino males above the age of 10 killed and burned to squelch the insurrection. He was later court-martialed.

Delmendo will soon release her book, "One Hundred Years of America in the Philippines."

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Shirley Cuyugan O'Brien of the Philippine Forum advocacy group based in Queens compared the Filipino-American war to America's aggression in Iraq.

"I consider Filipinos heroes for defending their country, and yet they were massacred … the Americans betrayed us," O'Brien said. "When America invaded Iraq, they didn't steal what was in the mosques," she said. The Filipino-American war had been called the "original Vietnam."

Mere symbols

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Those who oppose the return of the bells believe that removing the bells from Wyoming would be like desecrating the graves of American veterans who died in the war, she said.

A long campaign

The struggle to get back the bells has been arduous for the Philippines.

Then Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos in 1998 asked US President Bill Clinton to return the bells, in time for the centennial celebration of Philippine independence from Spain.

But the Wyoming veterans strongly opposed the bells' return. Earlier, they had thought the bells would be placed in a monument in Balangiga to depict American human rights violations.

A documentary film at the time, called "Savage Acts," depicted American troops' abuses in the Philippines during the 1898-1902 war. It ignited objections from veterans, who believed that American troops had fought a just war.

The bells became a prize in a political tug-of-war involving Wyoming veterans and Philippine officials in the 1990s and up to this time.

A third bell

In the late 1990s, a third Balangiga bell was discovered by the 9th US Infantry Regiment at its base in South Korea.

As the Philippines sided with the United States in Washington's war against terror, the issue of the bells faded.

Jean Wall, daughter of American veteran Adolph Gamlin, who fought and was wounded in the Balangiga battle in early 1901, staunchly opposed the return of the bells a few years ago, saying it would be disgraceful to hand them back to Filipinos who, she said, had no respect for the sacrifices of American troops who died on the island.

But she had a change of heart upon her visit to Balangiga.

Why keep them?

"I could see no reason why we should keep the three bells. [They have] no particular meanings to survivors. [They're] not located where they can be viewed by survivors' family. They have wonderful memorials in Balangiga … It's time for these two bells to go home," Wall said in a phone interview.

Every year, residents of Balangiga reenact in a solemn ceremony the Filipino-American War. They have built a memorial and a museum to preserve Philippine-US historical ties. Wall was present when the Wyoming veterans voted in March to return the bells to the Philippines.

But Wall said the documentary "Two Bells, Two Worlds" was not accurate. She defended the American soldiers and said the bells were not stolen from the church.

"They were picked up, possibly just lying on the ground after the village was torched both by the fleeing natives and the Americans," she said.

Plea from John Paul II

Sonny Sampayan, a retired US Air Force sergeant who has been organizing Filipino-Americans to press for the return of the bells, said that based on military records, no American soldiers from Wyoming died in the Balangiga conflict.

His group has asked California Rep. Robert Filner to file a bill for the return of the bells.

The late Pope John Paul II himself wrote President George Bush supporting the handover of the bells to Filipinos, Bishop Medroso said.

In his visit to New York, Medroso handed his petitions to Councilwoman Helen Sears of Queens and asked her to pass them on to Senator Clinton.

Medroso also visited Congress last week to appeal for the return of the bells. Aside from the spiritual link of the bells to the church, their return would redress the anguish of the war, he said.

The pealing of the bells over Balangiga would also mean a healing for an island battered by a violent past.

"The bells embody the life and history of our people," Medroso said. "We miss the bells. The longing of my people must be fulfilled."

Fil-Am actress …

From page A1

Events management company Gaitor Ideas will bring Pico to Manila on July 8. During her two-week stay here, the actress will lead a gift-giving event and will stage a mini-show in Tondo, Manila, her family's hometown. Plans are under way for her to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In many ways, Pico has been lucky in getting good breaks in her acting career—and life, in general.

Her mother, Merle Coniendo, was a spunky 18-year-old in 1980 who left the Philippines to seek a better life in America.

"The way my family went to the States is by TNT," Pico, an only child, revealed. "It was very messy. But my mom did what she had to do to make a better life for me," she said.

Mother and daughter were granted amnesty by the US government in 1990.

Pico said she constantly thought of what life would have been like had not her mother (who played bit roles in two FPJ movies) made those tough choices.

However, Pico stressed that she was proud of her roots, proud of being marketed as "the Tondo girl who made it in Hollywood."

"I've never been ashamed of being a Tondo girl. When people ask me where I come from in the Philippines, I say Tondo and they're like 'Ooooh.' They get this look on their faces. It doesn't matter to me what people think about that area because that's where my family comes from and that's what made them really strong," she said.

Perhaps it is also because of her own family's history that Pico prefers to make films with social impact.

"I want to do projects which have something good to say to the world. I don't think there's any point in telling stories unless they change people and force [them] to look at the way they look at life," said the actress, who makes mostly independent films.

Life was not always a bed of roses for Pico.

She was once a victim of domestic violence. Crazy in love, she married a half-Filipino who was a church deacon and more than a decade older than her. Soon after their son Sammy was born, he started the abuse.

The couple divorced two years ago. Then Pico got her first break in acting.

In March, Pico starred in Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues" in the Bay area. She was also conferred the "Vagina Warrior" recognition for lending her voice to the fight against domestic violence.

Pico said success would come if you make most of the opportunities that come your way—be they in America or the Philippines.

She explained: "You can be what you want to be if you don't give up. It sounds like a cliché but it's true—don't give up. Do what you have to do and be true to who you are."

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The struggle to get back the bells has been arduous for the Philippines.

Then Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos in 1998 asked US President Bill Clinton to return the bells, in time for the centennial celebration of Philippine independence from Spain.

But the Wyoming veterans strongly opposed the bells' return. Earlier, they had thought the bells would be placed in a monument in Balangiga to depict American human rights violations.

A documentary film at the time, called "Savage Acts," depicted American troops' abuses in the Philippines during the 1898-1902 war. It ignited objections from veterans, who believed that American troops had fought a just war.

The bells became a prize in a political tug-of-war involving Wyoming veterans and Philippine officials in the 1990s and up to this time.

A third bell

In the late 1990s, a third Balangiga bell was discovered by the 9th US Infantry Regiment at its base in South Korea.

As the Philippines sided with the United States in Washington's war against terror, the issue of the bells faded.

Jean Wall, daughter of American veteran Adolph Gamlin, who fought and was wounded in the Balangiga battle in early 1901, staunchly opposed the return of the bells a few years ago, saying it would be disgraceful to hand them back to Filipinos who, she said, had no respect for the sacrifices of American troops who died on the island.

But she had a change of heart upon her visit to Balangiga.

Why keep them?

"I could see no reason why we should keep the three bells. [They have] no particular meanings to survivors. [They're] not located where they can be viewed by survivors' family. They have wonderful memorials in Balangiga … It's time for these two bells to go home," Wall said in a phone interview.

Every year, residents of Balangiga reenact in a solemn ceremony the Filipino-American War. They have built a memorial and a museum to preserve Philippine-US historical ties. Wall was present when the Wyoming veterans voted in March to return the bells to the Philippines.

But Wall said the documentary "Two Bells, Two Worlds" was not accurate. She defended the American soldiers and said the bells were not stolen from the church.

"They were picked up, possibly just lying on the ground after the village was torched both by the fleeing natives and the Americans," she said.

Plea from John Paul II

Sonny Sampayan, a retired US Air Force sergeant who has been organizing Filipino-Americans to press for the return of the bells, said that based on military records, no American soldiers from Wyoming died in the Balangiga conflict.

His group has asked California Rep. Robert Filner to file a bill for the return of the bells.

The late Pope John Paul II himself wrote President George Bush supporting the handover of the bells to Filipinos, Bishop Medroso said.

In his visit to New York, Medroso handed his petitions to Councilwoman Helen Sears of Queens and asked her to pass them on to Senator Clinton.

Medroso also visited Congress last week to appeal for the return of the bells. Aside from the spiritual link of the bells to the church, their return would redress the anguish of the war, he said.

The pealing of the bells over Balangiga would also mean a healing for an island battered by a violent past.

"The bells embody the life and history of our people," Medroso said. "We miss the bells. The longing of my people must be fulfilled."

Fil-Am actress …

From page A1

Events management company Gaitor Ideas will bring Pico to Manila on July 8. During her two-week stay here, the actress will lead a gift-giving event and will stage a mini-show in Tondo, Manila, her family's hometown. Plans are under way for her to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In many ways, Pico has been lucky in getting good breaks in her acting career—and life, in general.

Her mother, Merle Coniendo, was a spunky 18-year-old in 1980 who left the Philippines to seek a better life in America.

"The way my family went to the States is by TNT," Pico, an only child, revealed. "It was very messy. But my mom did what she had to do to make a better life for me," she said.

Mother and daughter were granted amnesty by the US government in 1990.

Pico said she constantly thought of what life would have been like had not her mother (who played bit roles in two FPJ movies) made those tough choices.

However, Pico stressed that she was proud of her roots, proud of being marketed as "the Tondo girl who made it in Hollywood."

"I've never been ashamed of being a Tondo girl. When people ask me where I come from in the Philippines, I say Tondo and they're like 'Ooooh.' They get this look on their faces. It doesn't matter to me what people think about that area because that's where my family comes from and that's what made them really strong," she said.

Perhaps it is also because of her own family's history that Pico prefers to make films with social impact.

"I want to do projects which have something good to say to the world. I don't think there's any point in telling stories unless they change people and force [them] to look at the way they look at life," said the actress, who makes mostly independent films.

Life was not always a bed of roses for Pico.

She was once a victim of domestic violence. Crazy in love, she married a half-Filipino who was a church deacon and more than a decade older than her. Soon after their son Sammy was born, he started the abuse.

The couple divorced two years ago. Then Pico got her first break in acting.

In March, Pico starred in Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues" in the Bay area. She was also conferred the "Vagina Warrior" recognition for lending her voice to the fight against domestic violence.

Pico said success would come if you make most of the opportunities that come your way—be they in America or the Philippines.

She explained: "You can be what you want to be if you don't give up. It sounds like a cliché but it's true—don't give up. Do what you have to do and be true to who you are."

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Number of OFWs in '05 breaches 500,000 mark

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE EXODUS continues.

The number of Filipino workers leaving the country for higher-paying jobs abroad breached the 500,000 mark in the first half of 2005.

Acting Labor Secretary Danilo Cruz, citing figures from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, said a total of 502,772 OFWs were deployed abroad from January 1 to June 26 this year compared to the 483,496 OFWs deployed in the same period in 2004.

"We are confident that our goal to deploy a million OFWs globally continues on a firm and stable track," Cruz said in a statement.

He added that with this development, OFW remittances could reach $10 billion this year. Last year, OFWs sent $8.5 billion to their dependents in the country.

OFW remittances, it has been acknowledged, have kept the country's battered economy afloat.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier reported that OFW remittances rose by 17.22 percent from January to April 2005 to $3.072 billion from $2.621 billion in the same period last year.

The rise in OFW deployments this year could be attributed to the increase in the hiring of both land-based and sea-based workers.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the number of land-based OFWs rose to 380,663 from 371,164 in the same period in 2004. The number of sea-based OFWs, on the other hand, rose to 122,109 from 112,332.

Sto. Tomas said the Philippines continues to supply 20 to 25 percent of the world's maritime workers.

Likewise, the number of newly hired and rehired land-based OFWs increased this year. Newly hired workers increased to 136,517 from 127,489 last year, while rehires rose to 244,146 from 243,675 last year.

ENTERTAINING MALAYSIANS

Filipino dancers perform in the opening ceremony of the Citrawarna Malaysia (Colours of Malaysia) cultural festival in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. The event featured songs and dances from Malaysia and from invited Asian countries like the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Korea. Various art, cultural and traditional events will be held the entire month of July. AP

Kindhearted sheikha pays Pinoy boys' bills

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment has acknowledged the assistance of a noblewoman in the United Arab Emirates who paid for the medical bills and repatriation to the Philippines of two Filipino boys who had been abandoned by their parents in a Dubai hospital.

The sheikha, who insisted on remaining anonymous, provided 40,000 UAE dirhams (about P610,000) to secure the discharge from the hospital of the boys, aged 1 and 12, and to pay for the airfare of one of them to the Philippines.

The two boys arrived in Manila on June 23 and were placed in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's reception and study center, according to DOLE Acting Secretary Danilo Cruz.

Cruz said an overseas Filipino worker named Mila Buenaobra interceded with the noblewoman who, touched by the boys' plight, agreed to help.

The boys, known only as Amigos and Mohammad, were abandoned by their respective parents, the first immediately after birth, the second after being rushed to the hospital with a high fever.

The sheikha settled the two boys' hospital bills and paid 12-year-old Mohammad's airfare.

Kindhearted OFWs at the Sharjah Dance Club in Dubai raised some 1,000 dirhams to help the two boys.

The hospital advised the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Dubai about the case of Amigos, whose medical bills had reached 4,000 dirhams.

A Polo agent who visited the baby found the other abandoned boy Mohammad.

Buenaobra, a governess who works for the sheikha, happened to visit Polo and learned about the boys' case. She relayed their plight to her employer.

The Arab noblewoman called up the hospital a few days later to settle the two boys' accumulated bills totaling 40,000 dirhams, thus enabling Polo to prepare their repatriation.

Cruz said that while the sheikha reiterated her wish for privacy, "it is only proper and fitting for the Philippine government to acknowledge this act of humanity and nobility before the world."

According to the Saudi Arabia-based daily Arab News, cases of babies being abandoned by their Filipino mothers in the Middle East were not rare. The babies were usually fathered by the Filipinos' employers or were begotten out of wedlock.

Suspected illegal recruiters nabbed

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TWO SUSPECTED illegal recruiters who allegedly duped a number of nurses and caregivers into shelling out huge amounts of money for US visas were arrested in a police entrapment operation over the weekend.

The two ran Therese Madrigal Finance and Travel Services in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, which was found to have no license from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Its manager, Therese Madrigal, 41, was nabbed in an Alabang restaurant while receiving marked money from operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office Friday night.

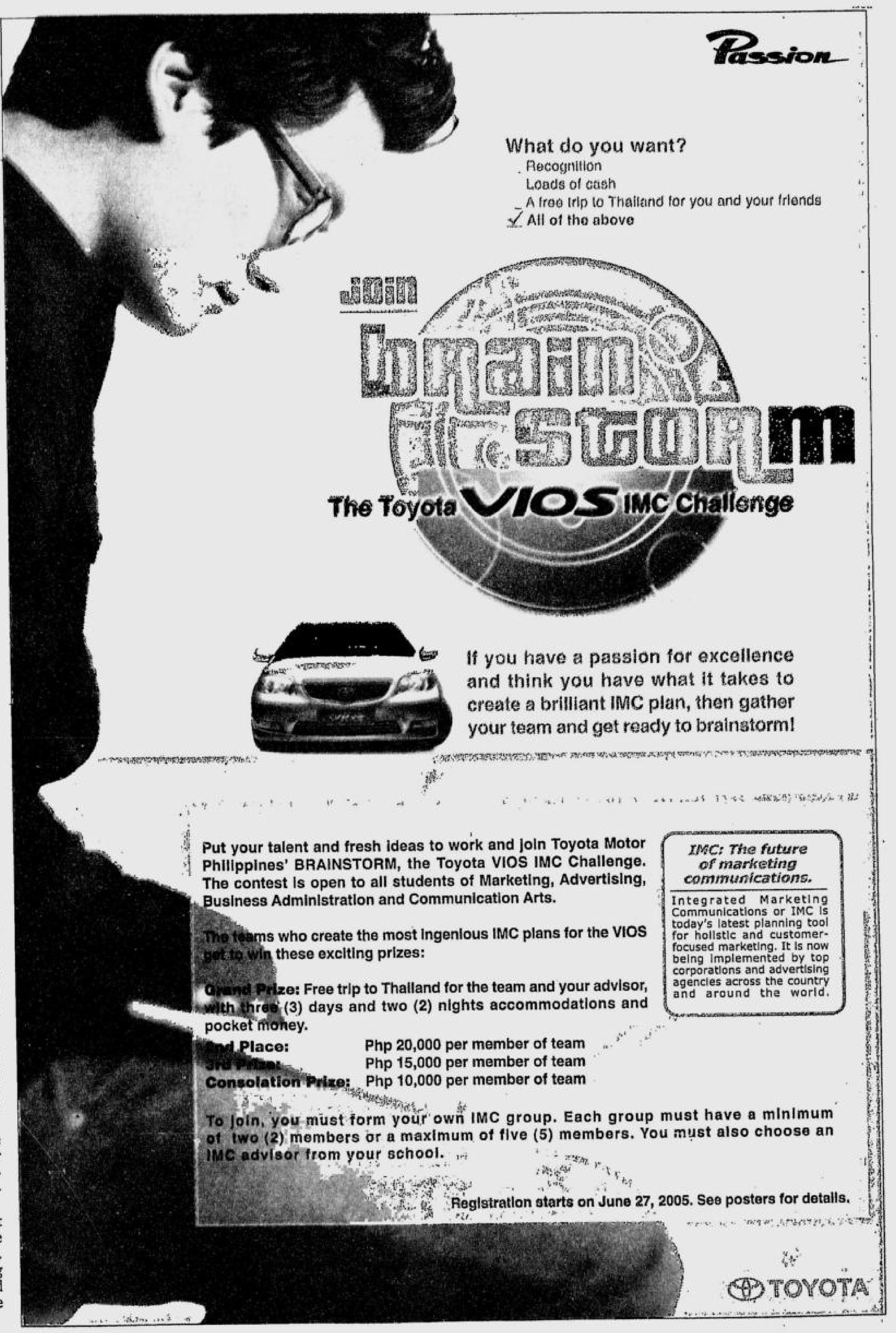
At about the same time, her assistant, Roberto Cancio, 61, was being arrested in a restaurant in Lucena City.

Cancio had a standing warrant of arrest issued by a Makati judge for another case of illegal recruitment. Supt. Sotero Ramos Jr., head of the NCRPO Regional Intelligence Special Operations Office, said the two suspects had amassed at least P1.8 million from their unsuspecting clients.

Ramos said some of the victims, who said they had paid the processing fee as long ago as 2002, came to them on June 26 to complain about Madrigal and Cancio.

Five of the victims were around as NCRPO chief Director Vidal Querol presented the suspects to the media at PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

Three of the victims did not want to show their faces to the media out of shame, they said. One added her family was being hounded by the people they had borrowed money from to pay the recruiters.



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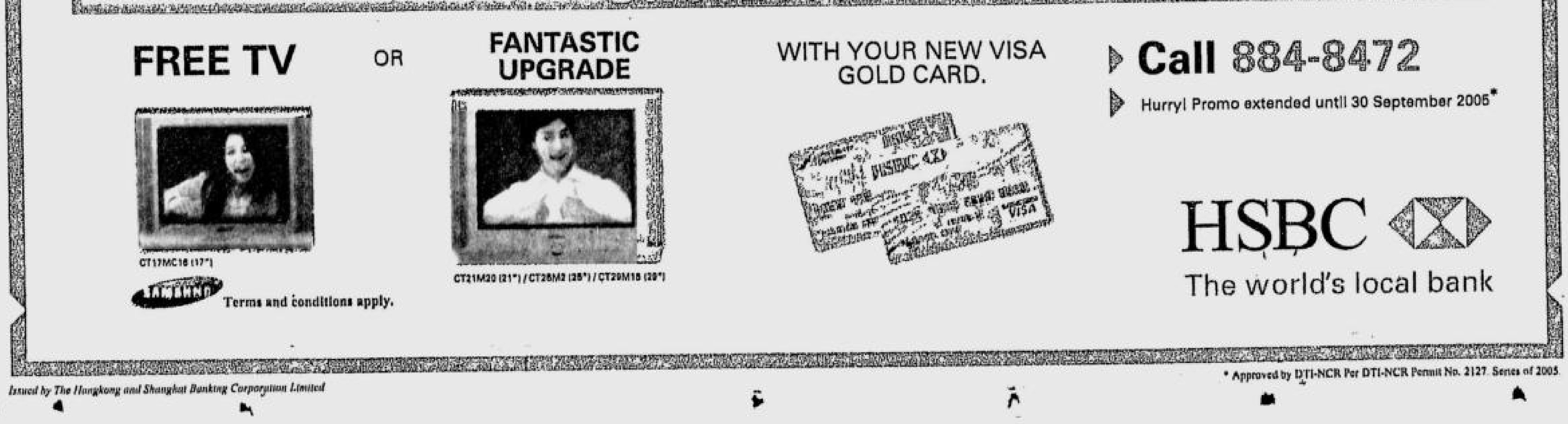

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Educators, lawyers ask GMA to resign

From page A1

to leave the country and the playing in the House of Representatives of the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and an election official "were enough in easing the tension for the middle class."

The First Gentleman, who has been a big target of critics for his alleged meddling in government affairs, left the country on Thursday. A copy of the taped conversation in which Ms Arroyo allegedly directed then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the presidential election was played in the House also on Thursday.

Corner has been turned

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said there was a general feeling among Cabinet members who met with the President on Friday that "a corner has been turned" and that the political situation "has improved compared to a week and a half ago."

"We had reached a clearing but we're not out of the woods yet," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

He also said the rally staged by anti-Arroyo groups on Ayala Avenue in Makati City on July 1 was "not a big bang."

Bunye and Gonzalez appeared to have spoken too soon.

In a statement titled "Restoring Faith in Democracy," La Salle administrators said Ms Arroyo's resignation would be good for the country.

"We would like to believe that she was sincere when she expressed her commitment to make a personal sacrifice for the nation's interest. We now pray her to bring it to full fruition—the supreme sacrifice of surrendering personal want, comfort and position. We pray her to voluntarily relinquish power so that a constitutional process of succession may proceed," said the statement, which appeared in the INQUIRER yesterday.

Although DLSU took stands against Presidents Ferdinand Marcos, who was toppled in 1986, and Estrada, who was ousted in 2001, its position was a surprise considering it has not been known for political activism.

Luistro said 10 of the university's 15 branches nationwide, including its main and largest campus in Manila, backed the position taken by top school officials.

Serious crisis

La Salle administrators noted that the nation "is beset anew by a serious and profound crisis" spurred by "allegations of fraud and deceit leveled" against Ms Arroyo.

"While lapses in judgment may be acceptable in some other circumstances, we cannot agree that a phone call to a Comelec (Commission on Elections) official is a case of mere impropriety, especially since the right of suffrage is the cornerstone of democracy," they said.

Ms Arroyo apologized on June 27 for what she called a "lapse in judgment" when she phoned an election official while votes for the presidential election were still being canvassed.

The DLSU administrators said "moral ascendancy is a critical ingredient in effective governance" and that if Ms Arroyo stayed in office for another five years "she will be unable to realistically command the respect of the nation."

But they said they were against "all other extraconstitutional solutions to this present crisis or any other means which may lead to violence."

Faculty members of the UP College of Law voted on Friday to call for the President's resignation.

A professor who attended the meeting said the college voted overwhelmingly that Ms Arroyo committed impeachable offenses and that she should step down.

But the Jose W. Diokno Foundation said "few believe that impeachment is a viable option" because of the administration's majority in Congress. The foundation is a nonpartisan organization that aims to promote the nationalistic and libertarian ideals and values of the late Sen. Jose W. Diokno.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the foundation said the people also could not wait for the outcome of a fact-finding commission, which would take a year or so, while Ms Arroyo remained in office.

Some members of civil society, including the Caucus of Development NGOs (Code-NGO), are forming an independent fact-finding commission to verify the authenticity of the tape suggesting that Ms Arroyo had cheated in last year's presidential election.

"Ms Arroyo must step down from office. This is the first and necessary step in the peaceful transition to a genuine reexamination and restructuring of our institutions," the foundation said.

The statement was signed by Zenaida Q. Avanceña, president of the foundation and daughter of President Manuel L. Quezon, and Carmen Diokno, treasurer of the foundation and daughter of the late senator.

Dishonesty not acceptable

The foundation said the issue was one of grave wrongdoing by the occupant of the highest office of the land. "A president incapable of distinguishing between mere impropriety and grave wrongdoing should not lead.

"By stepping down, the message to all, most especially our youth, is clear: Dishonesty is unacceptable. Dishonesty is wrong. No public official who is dishonest should remain in office. Dishonest officials must be accountable for their actions. 'Sorry' is not enough,'" the foundation said.

"By remaining in office, the message of Ms Arroyo is the opposite: It pays to be dishonest; just apologize and all is forgiven. One can try to cheat and, successful or not, remain president, an official of the Comelec or indeed of any other government agency, the legislature included," it said.

Character flaw

In another sign that support for Ms Arroyo was eroding among the middle class, the Kapatiran Party, composed mostly of urban professionals, said the President was suffering from a "serious character flaw."

"We believe that the apology was insincere. While the President admitted a 'lapse in judgment,' she denied being guilty of any crime or any illegal act. We feel profoundly insulted by this. We feel there is an attempt to deceive us ... What we see here is a President who lied to our people not only once but on many occasions," the group said.

As examples of this "pattern," the group cited her appointment of Garcillano to the Comelec despite having been warned of his questionable activities in the election agency, and her promise that she would not run in the 2004 elections "only to change her mind" later.

Kapatiran was formed by peace crusader Nandy Pacheco and Alex Lacson, secretary general, a few years ago.

The group said Ms Arroyo had done enough to damage the credibility of government institutions, particularly the Office of the President.

Pacheco said Vice President Noli de Castro must be allowed to assume the presidency should Ms Arroyo relinquish power.

"Whatever we feel about De Castro, he was elected vice president. Let us respect our processes," he said.

The lawyers' group Codal said Ms Arroyo betrayed the public trust when she allowed Bunye to earlier declare that the wiretapped tapes were a concoction of the opposition when she knew they were real.

She might also have committed other criminal acts and election offenses, and has used her office to cover them up, it said.

Codal was formed this year to speak out against the killings and harassment of lawyers in the country.

Codal spokesperson Neli Colmenares said the group chose to speak out on the controversy over the "Gloria tapes" because what happened had become a threat to the rule of law.

Catholic educators to meet

While the La Salle schools have already called on Ms Arroyo to resign, an organization of Catholic schools, whose members include schools attended by the President, are set to meet on Thursday to decide on its stand.

The Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines (CEAP) is set to convene at DLSU on Taft Avenue in Manila.

Ms Arroyo went to high school at the Assumption Convent and graduated from Assumption College, a member of CEAP. She earned her master's degree at the Ateneo de Manila University, another CEAP member.

In 2000, CEAP issued a statement calling for the resignation of Estrada, who was facing impeachment on charges of collecting payoffs from operators of jueteng, an illegal numbers game. *With a report from AP*

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Bishops form panel ...

From page A1

- Fr. Rudy Abao, former head of the Association of the Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines.
- Cannosian Sister Estela Cordero.
- Emma Roxas, former commercial attaché and professor at the Asian Social Institute.
- Prof. Ernie Gonzales, a fellow of the London School of Economics and head of the University of Sto. Tomas Research Center.

The setting up of the panel could be a case of putting the cart before the horse. Ms Arroyo has vowed to hang on amid calls for her to resign following allegations of involvement in electoral fraud.

'Integrity and vision'

Tobias said the committee would accept nominations of people with "integrity beyond reproach and vision for the country."

Tobias, Iñiguez and Labayen are senior advisers of the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME), a group of clergymen, economists, businessmen and academics critical of Ms Arroyo's economic policies.

The three bishops said they were among churchmen who took part in the Edsa I and II popular uprisings that drove Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada out of Malacañang.

Jaime Regalario, KME chairperson, said the so-called selection committee would conduct nationwide consultations to determine the right people for an interim government.

Tobias said all Filipinos were welcome to submit names but added that his group preferred "good men and women outside of government."

"The good ones are really outside of the government, not inside the government," he said. "We just don't know them yet."

Grafters out

"Those who face charges of graft and corruption left and right but are still in government would automatically be disqualified," he said.

Asked if the bishops were not acting like self-appointed king makers, Tobias said the selection process and the proposed interim government were meant only as an "alternative" in the wake of the worsening political crisis.

"In the end, it's still the people who will decide who they want to run the new government," he said. "We're just initiating an alternative so our country won't crash into anarchy."

Regalario said the UST Research Center and two other research firms would conduct background checks of nominees before submitting their names to the KME board for deliberation.

The names will later be presented to a wider group representing political parties, organized forces and other sectors for further consultations, Regalario said.

Day of prayer in Cebu

"We'll be expecting tough times then, especially with the political parties," he said. "We will have to deliberate with people of varied interests and ideologies."

In Cebu City, Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal announced that Cebu was now in a "state of prayer" amid the political crisis facing the Arroyo administration.

In a statement, Vidal asked the faithful to join the Church in a "day of fasting and prayer" as he raised concerns over the "absence of any concrete solution to solve the situation of the country."

"This is just like declaring [a] state of calamity ... which means that under the state of prayer, the Church is in an atmosphere of prayerfulness," said Msgr. Achilles Dakay, the Cebu archdiocese's media liaison officer.

"Instead of holding mass actions, our action will be through Masses inside the church as in every parish. Every Mass, there will be prayers for the nation." *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Radioman shot dead

From page A1

had been hosting its Sunday program "Tingog sa Barangay" (Voice of the Barangay) for a year now.

On May 10, Philip "Ap" Agustin, publisher-editor of the Starline Times Recorder, was shot dead in the house of his daughter in Dingalan, Aurora. He was carrying 500 copies of his newsweekly's special edition on alleged missing funds, relief goods and logs in Dingalan, which was hit by devastating floods and landslides last year.

Four other journalists were killed in separate shooting incidents this year, including Klein Cantoneros, a reporter of dxAA in nearby Dipolog City who was gunned down on his way home on May 3, and Marlene Esperat, an antigraft crusader shot dead on Maundy Thursday in front of her children in her house in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat.

In a report released on May 2, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) described the Philippines as the "most murderous country for journalists" since 2000. Next was Iraq, followed by Colombia, Bangladesh and Russia.

The Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) has strongly criticized the Philippine government for allowing the killings of journalists to go unchallenged and demanded that the United Nations intervene.

It said hired killers had targeted radio and newspaper journalists on orders of corrupt politicians in the Philippines.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines has said that while the country prides itself on having the freest press in Asia, there is no genuine press freedom as shown by the violence committed against its practitioners.

Frontline sex workers ignored in fight vs AIDS

KOBE, Japan—Former sex worker Tonette says people like her are some of the best fighters against AIDS in Asia but they are being ignored by governments and international agencies even as an explosion of the deadly disease looms.

One in four new infections occurs in Asia, home to more than half the world's people, and 1,500 die in the region each day. The disease has spread to all provinces in China, while the number of Indian HIV/AIDS patients is second only to South Africa.

Tonette Lopez, 30, who worked in bars in her native Philippines for three years and has founded an NGO for sex workers, accused major international agencies of being out of touch with the very communities they were trying to reach.

"Sometimes because they are the funders, they think they know what's best for us, when in fact it should be the other way around," she told Reuters on the sidelines of an international AIDS conference in this city.

"We're the ones in contact with the community, not them," she said. "They're only in their offices, sitting down and waiting for their reports. And sometimes the reports are not true."

Though she acknowledged that agencies can provide a badly needed structure for prevention efforts, she urged them to make more of an effort to include the sex workers, who as peers are able to reach out to their communities most effectively.

"There should be greater participation from us—and they should put us first."

The UN estimates 8.2 million people are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in Asia, about 5.1 million of them in India. The Chinese government says there are 840,000 patients in China.

Worldwide, about 39 million people have HIV/AIDS, including 25 million in sub-Saharan Africa.

Commercial sex is one of the main forces behind the spread of HIV in many countries in Asia, where the United Nations says that 12 million people could be newly infected in the next five years if prevention programs are not intensified.

Though the infection rates of AIDS are highest among injecting drug users in Asia, the huge numbers of people involved in buying and selling sex makes it a critical concern.

"How we deal with the sex trade will have a decisive effect on HIV epidemics in Asia and the Pacific," Cheryl Overs, an activist with International HIV/AIDS Alliance, told a session of the conference, which lasts until July 5. "The effort must be massive in scale and as diverse as the region itself."

Prevention efforts face new challenges, however, as the sex industry changes in response to modernization.

While women still make up the overwhelming number of sex workers, there is also a need to reach other groups, such as men who sell sex to other men, and transgenders such as Tonette, who tend to be ignored altogether.

The conference is stressing the importance of condoms, whose use varies widely according to the nation and the situation.

One survey conducted last year in East Timor, Asia's newest nation, found that four out of 10 sex workers did not recognize a condom when shown one.

For the greatest success, such outreach programs should involve other sex workers, Tonette said.

"You have the experience, you know how it is, you know how it feels—and you can get through the message to everyone."

Reuters

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 4, 2005
14th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Gen 28:10-22
Gospel: Matthew 9:18-26

While Jesus was speaking, an official of the synagogue came up to him, bowed before him and said, "My daughter has just died, but come and place your hands on her, and she will live." Jesus stood up and followed him with his disciples.

Then a woman who had suffered from a severe bleeding for twelve years came up from behind and touched the edge of his cloak. For she thought, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned, saw her and said, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you." And from that moment the woman was cured.

When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the excited crowd, he said, "Get out of here! The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping!" And they laughed at him. But once the crowd had been turned out, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up. The news of this spread through the whole area.

Commentary

A synagogue official begs Jesus to come and lay hands on his daughter who has died and bring her to life. (The Jews believed that you were not actually dead until 3 days had passed). And Jesus stood up (he had been sitting and teaching) and follows the man with his disciples. But on the way, a woman who has suffered from bleeding for 12 years comes up behind him and touches his cloak. Jesus turns, sees her and blesses her with courage and assures her she is saved (and cured). When they arrived Jesus tells the public mourners to get out—the girl is only sleeping, not dead and they laugh him to scorn. And when they are gone, he goes in and takes the girl by the hand and she stood up. Two women, a young girl about to come of age and a woman who has been shunned and excluded for as long as the girl has lived and been loved. Both are brought back to life and into the community again. Jesus follows behind anyone who seeks life at his hand and in his words and lets those in need take as well as gives to those who ask. Do we believe—on others' behalf? How do we beg life for from our God?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT)—Wages—Wages are defined as "remuneration or earnings, however designated, capable of being expressed in terms of money, whether fixed or ascertained on a time, task, piece or commission basis, or other method of calculating the same, which is payable by an employer to an employee under a written or unwritten contract of employment for work done or to be done, or for service rendered or to be rendered." That the petitioner was paid on a per trip basis is not significant. This is merely a method of computing compensation and not a basis for determining the existence or absence of employer-employee relationship. One may be paid on the basis of results or time expended on the work, and may or may not acquire an employment status, depending on whether the elements of an employer-employee relationship are present or not. In this case, it cannot be gainsaid that the petitioner received compensation from the respondent company for the services that he rendered to the latter. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Chavez vs National Labor Relations Commission, G.R. No. 146530, January 17, 2005) BY R.B. VERA

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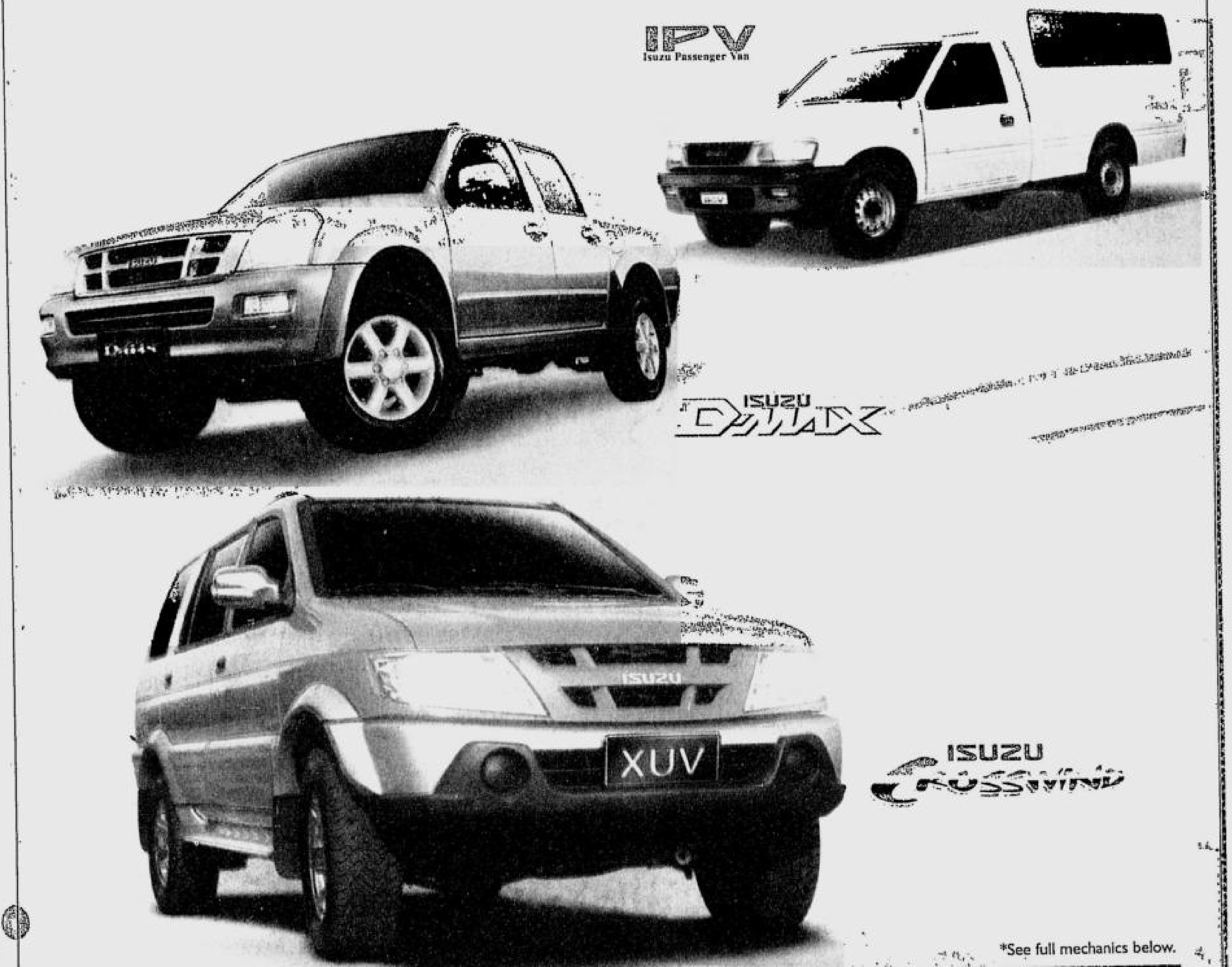

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G8 faces pressure on Africa, warming

LONDON—Pressure mounted Sunday on the world's most powerful men to end poverty in Africa after an unprecedented global wave of star-studded concerts as well as a mass rally in Scotland that heralded yet more to come.

Leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) industrial countries were also facing pressure to fight global warming and boost chances for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict during their summit in Scotland this week.

However, the momentum for change appeared to be most striking on the problems of Africa.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's government is harnessing worldwide popular support behind its agenda to alleviate poverty in Africa at the G8 summit that begins Wednesday in the Scottish golf resort at Gleneagles.

Wrapping himself in the antipoverty banner unfurled across the world, Blair's finance minister Gordon Brown joined campaigners in the Scottish capital Edinburgh and called the popular movement "a beacon of hope."

The fight against poverty in Africa was "the greatest moral crusade of our times," Brown told a gathering organized by the Church of Scotland and the Christian Aid charity in Edinburgh.

The gathering followed a march of 200,000 people, the biggest political rally ever held in the Scottish capital, before more rallies take place in the runup to the summit in Gleneagles, just north of Edinburgh.

At the same time a dramatic plea to help Africa came from an unprecedented wave of star-studded concerts in nine countries that drew one million or more spectators and a possible television audience of billions.

Pledging their support at the concerts were Microsoft computer software billionaire Bill Gates, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, former South African president Nelson Mandela and a host of world-famous musicians and actors.

The leaders of the G8—Britain, the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Russia—are asked to write off billions of dollars in debt to the world's poorest countries, boost aid, and make trade fair.

G8 finance ministers already agreed last month to immediately write off all multilateral debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest countries, most of them in Africa, amounting to $40 billion (33 billion euros).

Other components of Britain's Africa agenda—which could prove harder to find agreement on—are more aid to the world's poorest countries and an end to market-distorting farm subsidies in rich nations.

Farm subsidies have provoked a dispute at the heart of the European Union, which has four countries represented in the G8—Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

The US administration is reluctant to meet the full aid demands made by Britain. "Money alone is not the answer," US Treasury Secretary John Snow said.

Salil Shetty, spokesperson for the Global Call for Action Against Poverty, said the popular events put world leaders on the spot.

"We think that if the G8 leaders who have been promising these things (for Africa) for so many years don't deliver now there is absolutely no excuse," he said.

Global warming is proving a tougher nut to crack.

With the exception of the United States, all the G8 countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol targeting the issue of reducing greenhouse gases said to be responsible for global warming.

After assuming office in early 2001, President George W. Bush denounced the Kyoto treaty, saying that it would destroy jobs in the United States. He was also opposed to its non-application to developing countries such as China and India.

The Guardian newspaper said Friday that Blair and the other G8 leaders may agree to a text that will leave Bush isolated.

It said the United States objects to wording in the draft communique that "climate change is a serious and long-term challenge" that could affect the whold world and that "human activity is contributing" to it. *AFP*

PAKINGGAN:
Boses ng TAUMBAYAN

KAMI ANG TAUMBAYAN. Mga manggagawa't magsasaka, drayber, manininda, manggagawa sa bahay, impormal na manggagawa, OFW, maralitang tagalunsod, kabataan at katandaan, Muslim at katutubo.

Sa matinding bangayan ngayon sa pulitika, ginagamit at isinasangkalan kami ng kung sinu-sinong alam naman naming may kanya-kanyang interes at adyenda. Kaya, sa pamamagitan ng aming mga organisasyon, kami ay nag-ambag-ambag upang ipaalam ang aming posisyon kaugnay sa isyung gumagambala ngayon sa ating bayan.

Kagyat naming idinedeklara na: SI PANGULONG GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ANG NANALO SA NAKARAANG HALALAN.

Ibinoto namin siya. Pagkat siya ang may pinakamalinaw na programa at adyenda para sa aming mahihirap. Hindi kami nakuha ng popularidad at paporma lamang. Ibinoto namin siya pagkat alam namin na ang kailangan ng bayan ay lider na may kakayanan at kasanayan na harapin ang mga masalimuot na problema ng ating bansa.

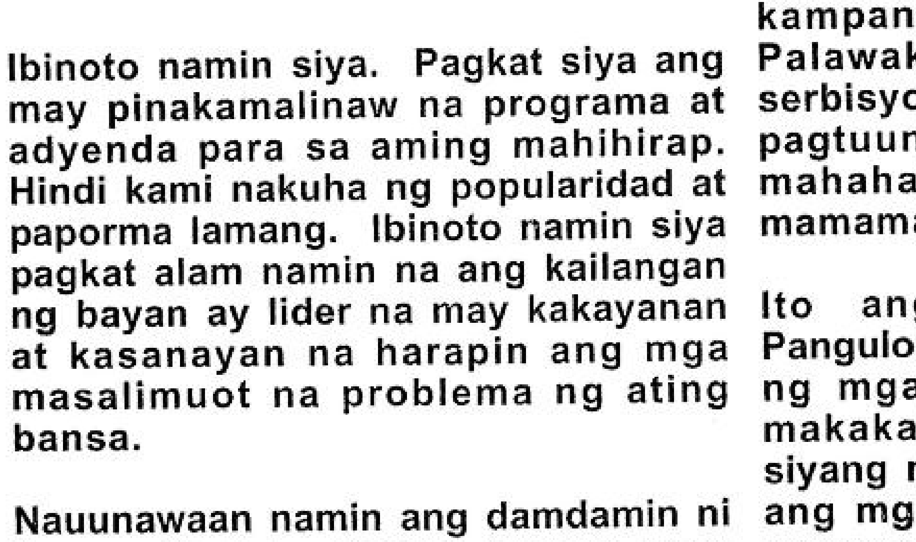
Nauunawaan namin ang damdamin ni Susan Roces. Ngunit huwag sana siyang magpagamit sa mga oportunistang interes na sumasakay at nanggagatong sa sitwasyon.

Nanawagan kami sa lahat na igalang at ipagtanggol ang ating mga demokratikong institusyon at mga proseso ng batas.

Tanggap namin ang pagpapakumbaba at paghingi ng paumanhin ni Pangulong Arroyo. Ngunit nalulungkot kami na patuloy siyang binabato ng mga taong may dungis din sa kamay.

REPORMA ANG KAILANGAN NATIN. Upang umangat ang kabuhayan. Upang malinis at maayos ang ating mga institusyon, gaya ng Comelec. Kailangang pag-ibayuhin ang kampanya laban sa katiwalian. Palawakin ang mga batayang serbisyong panlipunan. Kailangang pagtuunan ng pansin ang higit na mahahalagang problema ng mamamayan.

Ito ang panawagan namin sa Pangulong Arroyo. Sa gitna ng unos ng mga batikos ng oposisyon at makakaliwang grupo, huwag sana siyang mawalan ng loob na ipatupad ang mga programa't mahahalagang reporma sa pagpapaangat sa kalagayan ng sambayanan.



TAMA NA! ITIGIL NA ANG BANGAYAN SA PULITIKA!

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Facts on climate change

by Richard Ingham

PARIS—Following is a fact-file on climate change, one of the most controversial items at the July 6-8 Group of Eight (G8) summit in Gleneagles, Scotland.

What is climate change?

Climate change is the phenomenon caused by global warming. Natural cycles of warming and cooling have occurred many times in Earth's history, and indeed the rise of Homo sapiens is attributed to the end of the last Ice Age some 11,000 years ago. What worries scientists is man-made global warming—when carbon-rich fuels stored for aeons beneath the ground are extracted and burned, releasing billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) each year. CO2 is a "greenhouse gas:" it traps the Sun's heat in the atmosphere instead of letting it radiate out to space. As a result the Earth's surface is warming, disrupting the planet's delicate climate system.

How certain is the evidence?

Global warming appeared on scientists' radar a quarter-century ago, but evidence was sketchy and the tools to explore it were so poor that for nearly two decades there was no consensus that rising temperatures were natural or man-made. That all changed in 2001, when the UN's top authority on global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), declared the evidence for man-made warming was incontrovertible. Today, there are still gaps in knowledge, but these are shrinking fast—as is the skeptics' camp, whose cause is backed by some oil majors.

What do scientists say?

The IPCC predicted a temperature rise of 1.4 to 5.8 C from 1990-2100, according to scenarios of CO2 levels ranging from 540 to 970 parts per million (ppm). That compares with 280 ppm for pre-industrial times and around 380 ppm today. But that prediction was made more than four years ago, and the science has made many leaps forward since then. New aspects about global warming are being uncovered almost every month, but the new is almost always bad. Recent worries: above a certain temperature rise, gigatonnes of CO2 could be quickly released from melted permafrost in Canada and Russia; and the oceans may become so acidic that they can no longer absorb much CO2 from the atmosphere. Both are doomsday scenarios.

How bad will climate change be?

The more CO2, the higher the temperature and the higher temperature, the bigger the impact. At the lower range of the IPCC estimates, there will be a tiny increase in global sea levels and some increased water stress, and some regions in higher latitudes may in fact benefit. At the higher range, droughts, floods and storms will become more violent and more frequent, mean sea levels could rise by up to 88 cm (2.9 feet) by 2100, creating an exodus of "climate refugees." Almost all of the world's population will be affected, but poor tropical countries will be hit worst.

How much time is left for action?

Not much. A top science conference in February declared that climate change is already underway, visible through glacier shrinkage, melting of polar ice, shifts in rainfall patterns and bad heatwaves. Experts say that if the world wants to keep to the bottom end of the IPCC temperature estimates, global emissions of CO2 will have to peak in 2020 and then fall to half of today's levels by 2095—a tall order, given that developing countries and the United States are gobbling up fossil fuels. The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that on current trends CO2 emissions will surge by 63 percent over 2002 levels by 2030.

What are the solutions?

The obvious answer: to stop using fossil fuels and use clean energy sources such as wind, solar, hydro and hydrogen. But this is easier said than done. Oil, gas and coal are the world's long-established energies and have big advantages in cost and efficiency over technologies that are still in their infancy and need tax breaks or regulatory help to make headway. In addition, the fossil-fuel lobby is fighting a fierce rear guard action, particularly in Washington, to keep its crown. Over the next couple of decades, the best hopes may lie in interim solutions such as better fuel efficiency, promoting hybrid cars and storing CO2 underground from coal as the fuel is burned rather than letting the damaging gas escape into the air. Mitigation costs should not be expensive—just 1-2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) if launched today—but the cost will multiply if the effort is delayed.

What about Kyoto?

The UN's Kyoto Protocol requires industrialized countries that have ratified it to limit their emissions of greenhouse gases by a 2012 time frame as compared to a 1990 benchmark, It took effect last February, surviving abandonment by the US, which opposed binding targets as too expensive for its economy, and footdragging by Russia. But Kyoto remains in a bad way. Even its European champions are having big problems meeting their pledges. The treaty is criticized for making only timid cuts (just one or two percent at best, after the US walkout), for being complex and for not including India and China, now big polluters, in commitments on emissions cuts. Negotiations for the post-2012 Kyoto start in Montreal in November. *AFP*

FOR AFRICA
GEORGE Michael (left), Bob Geldof and Paul McCartney (right) perform during the Live 8 concert for Africa in Hyde Park in London July 2. Megastars from U2 to Madonna mixed smash hits with powerful political messages on ending poverty in Africa, as the heart of a global music spectacle rocked and inspired a record crowd in London. AFP

US probe aims to hit comet

WASHINGTON—Planet Earth early Sunday fired its first ever shot at a passing comet in the hopes of peeking into its core. But it will take 24 hours to find out whether it was a hit or miss.

Scientists insisted that although the experiment was somewhat reminiscent of the 1998 movie "Deep Impact," in which a US spaceship attacks a monster comet with nuclear weapons to ward off its collision with Earth, the real-life attack on comet Tempel 1 was in pursuit of exclusively scientific goals.

"The impact simply will not appreciably modify the comet's orbital path," Don Yeomans, a mission scientist with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, told reporters. "Comet Tempel 1 poses no threat to the Earth now or in the foreseeable future."

The $333-million cosmic sniper shot, in which both the target and the projectile move at least 20 times faster than bullets, is expected to provide a glimpse beneath the surface of the comet and offer new clues to the origins of the solar system.

The projectile, the size of an oil drum, was fired at 2:07 a.m. by US spacecraft Deep Impact that had undertaken a 172-day, 431-million-km journey to get closer to the comet, which is about as large as half Manhattan Island.

Twelve minutes after the release, a camera-equipped probe began peeling off from the projectile and set on a separate path that will get it as close as 500 kms to Tempel 1 shortly after the copper-laden impactor slams into it.

Radio contact between the two craft has been confirmed, according to JPL officials.

The collision with the gas-spewing rock that is hurtling through in the solar system at approximately 37,100 kph is set for 1:52 a.m. Monday. *AFP*

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Digital music now new gold mine in cell phone industry

STOCKHOLM—With camera phones already sliding into yesterday's news category, digital music is rapidly becoming the new Eldorado of the mobile phone industry.

"All operators we meet say that the most important service for this year is actually mobile music," Svante Holm, the head of music sales at Swedish mobile phone giant Ericsson, told AFP.

Damian Stathonikos, Nokia's communications manager in multimedia business, agreed. "Many operators in Europe are moving towards music services. In North America and South America, everyone sees mobile music as a really good opportunity," Stathonikos said.

The mobile music bonanza began modestly in 1998 when a small Finnish mobile phone operator, Radiolinja, launched the first-ever ringtone service for world-leading cell phone maker Nokia.

Once revolutionary, those tinny-sounding ring tones are today as good as obsolete, as new-third generation (3G) phones keep pushing the music envelope.

"Mobile phones have more memory space and their performance is rapidly improving," Holm said.

"Now you can fill up your phone with hundreds and hundreds of songs," he pointed out.

With 3G phones today already equipped to play CD-quality music and continuously expanding the storage space available, phone makers hope that they will soon replace other portable music devices like discmans and iPods completely.

"Most people are not carrying their music device all the time but they are carrying their phone all the time," Stathonikos pointed out.

Mobile phone companies are not only producing handsets with better sound quality and capacity for easy music downloads, they are also joining forces with Internet music providers and mobile operators to offer phone owners a larger range of music choices.

Last month, for example, Ericsson joined forces with online music-swapping pioneer Napster to offer new digital music services for operators.

Having distanced itself from its notorious illegal download days, Napster will help Ericsson provide the service legally and for a fee.

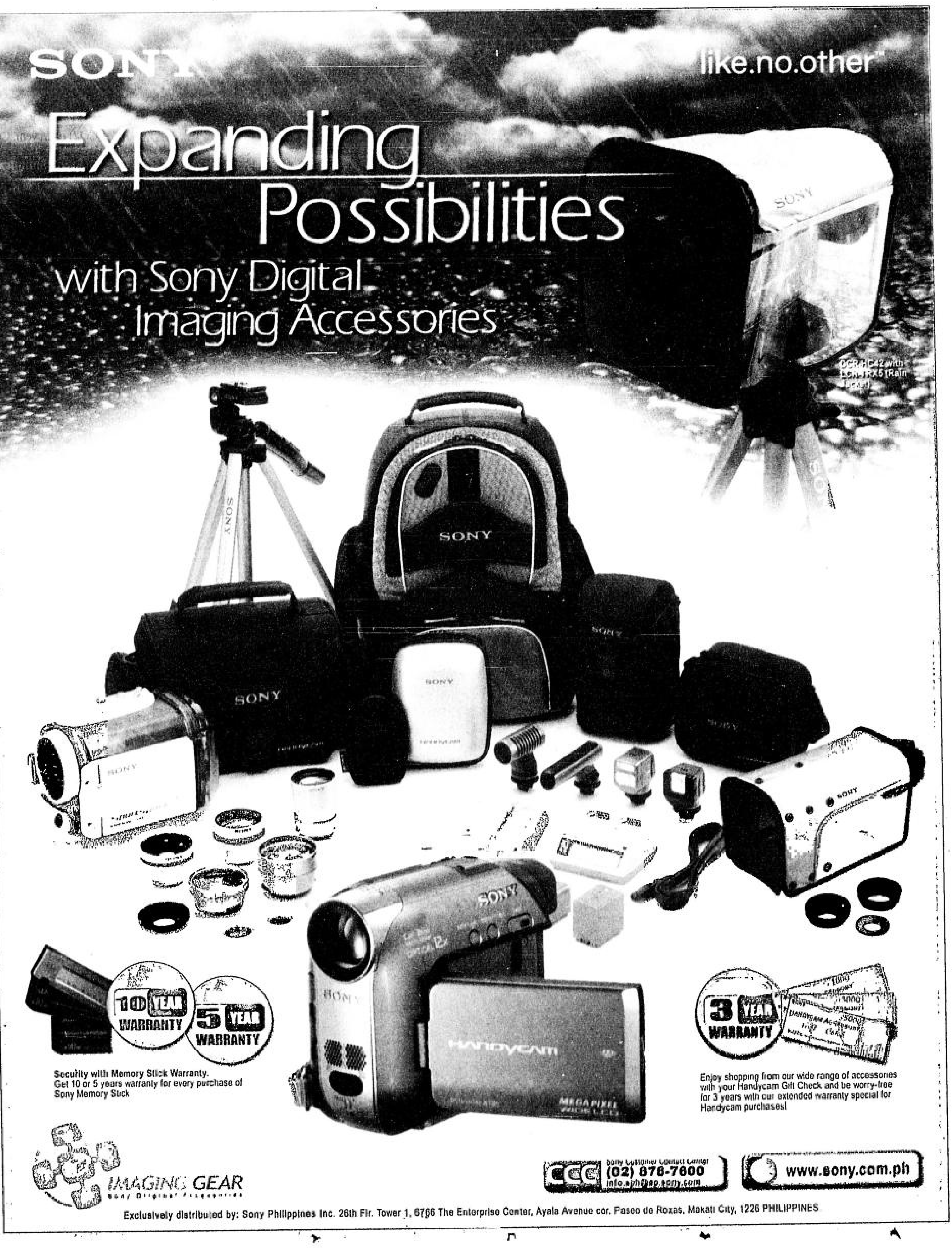
The two companies will create a common music download platform that is expected to be made available to operators around the world over the next year, starting in Europe, Holm said.

Other mobile phone makers have opted for more exclusive music-download alliances.

Greatly anticipated is a new mobile phone born out of a partnership between US companies Apple and Motorola and expected to appear within the next couple of weeks.

The phone has been equipped with software-enabling downloads from Apple's iTunes Music Stores, which already supply iPod with its oodles of tunes.

By joining forces with Apple, which holds 70 percent of the global online music market and, especially with their iPod, 75 percent of the high-quality portable music device market, Motorola is all but secured a big bite of the new, piping hot cell phone music pie. *AFP*



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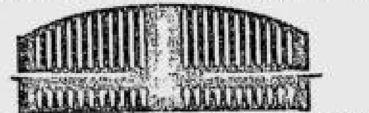

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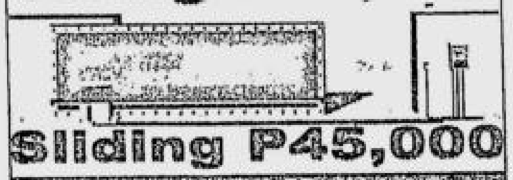

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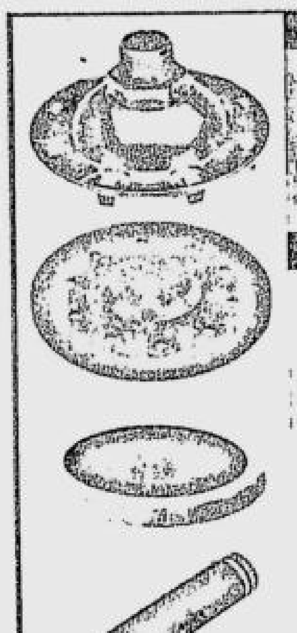

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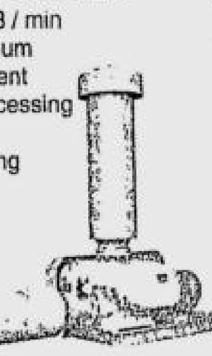

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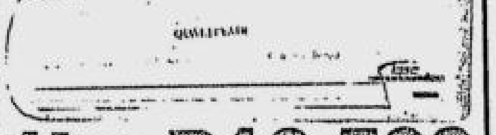

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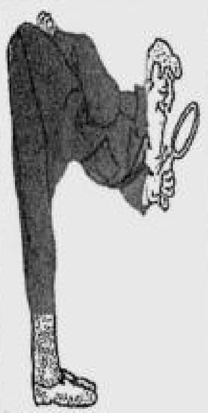

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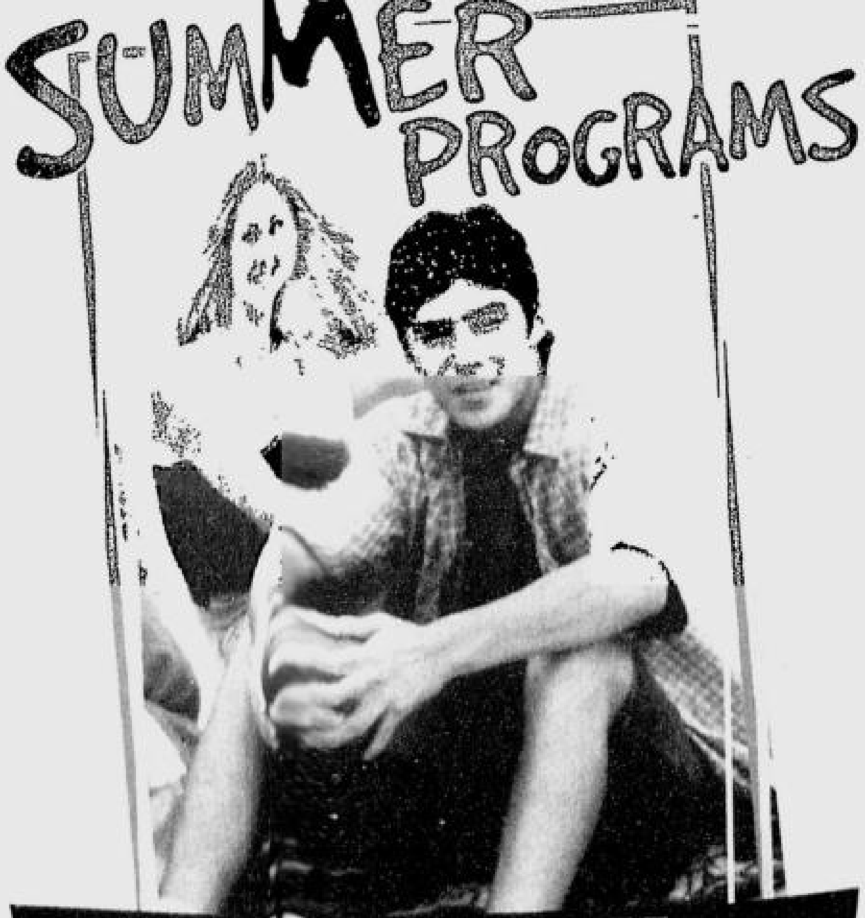

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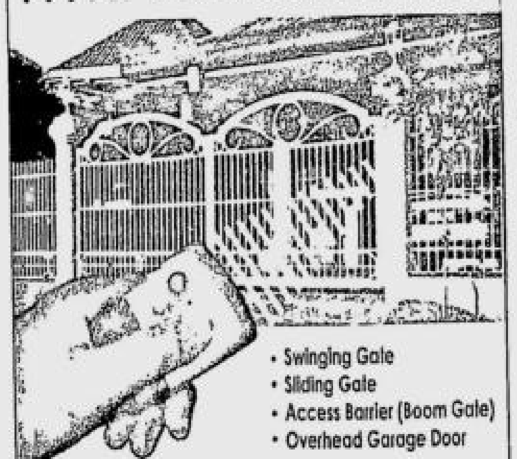

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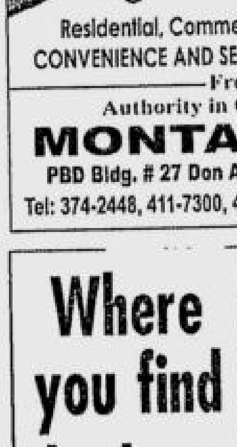

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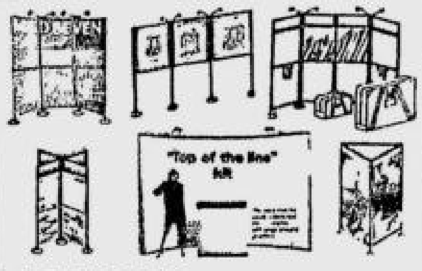

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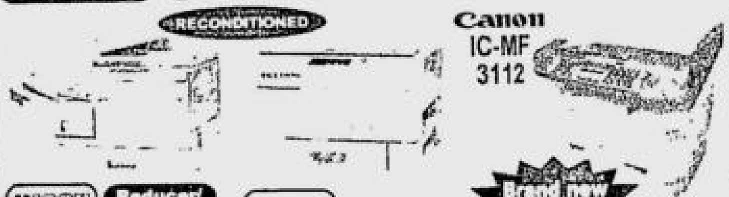

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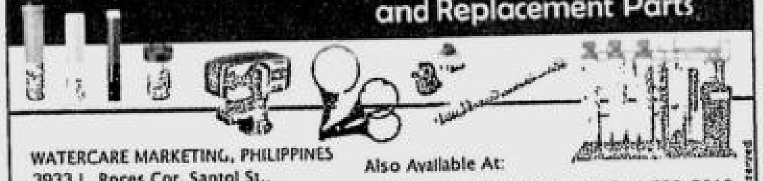

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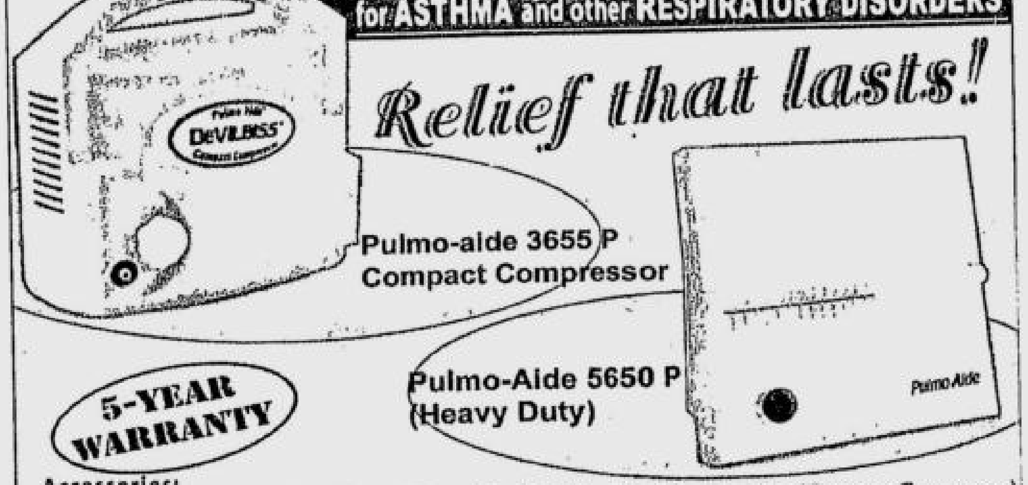

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Hong Kong lovers don't know what to do in bed, says report

HONG KONG—Hong Kongers usually rank near-bottom of the international list of lovers and a social worker may have discovered why: they don't know what to do between the sheets.

Grace Wong of the southern Chinese territory's Family Planning Association said the number of inquiries at her agency rocketed 50 percent last year, with many clients claiming to have no idea how to have sex.

"Some married couples are not familiar with their body parts," Wong was quoted as telling the Sunday Morning Post. "They don't know where their sex organs are."

"They don't know the physical changes associated with sexual response, like males getting an erection," she added.

Regular international surveys by condom manufacturers have found the city is less than amorous. Durex's last poll found Hong Kongers get it together 79 times a year, while the French manage it the most, at 137 times.

Another poll even suggested Hong Kong men prefer to go to work rather than have sex.

The frenetic work ethic in the former British colony is usually blamed for interfering with the course of nature.

But the paper said sociologists believe Chinese sensibilities, which deem discussion of sex even in school as taboo, are responsible.

AFP

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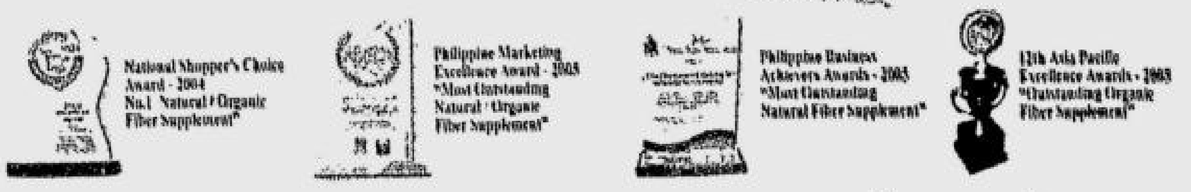
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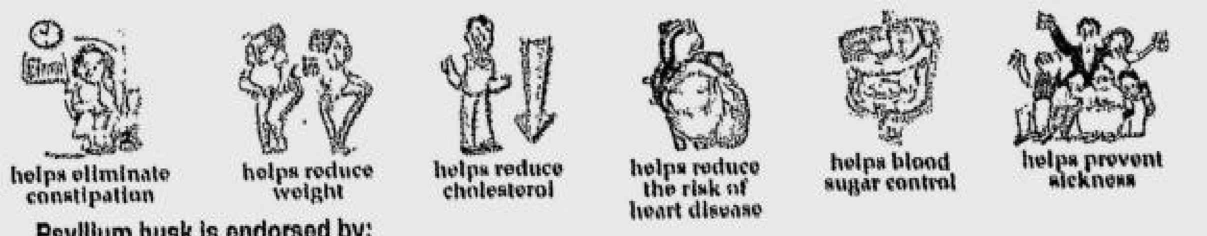
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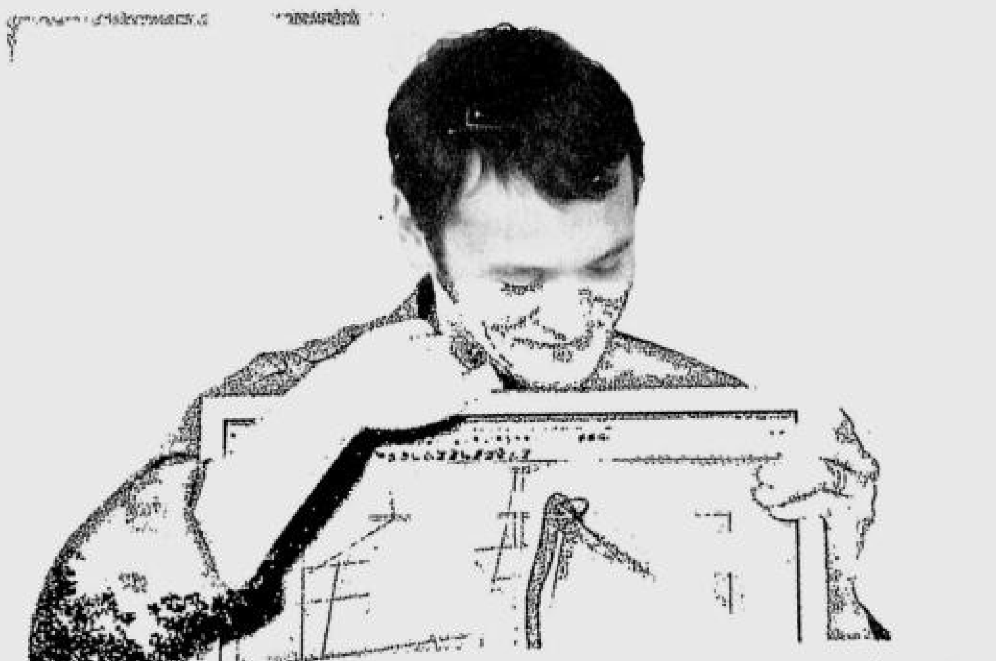

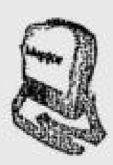

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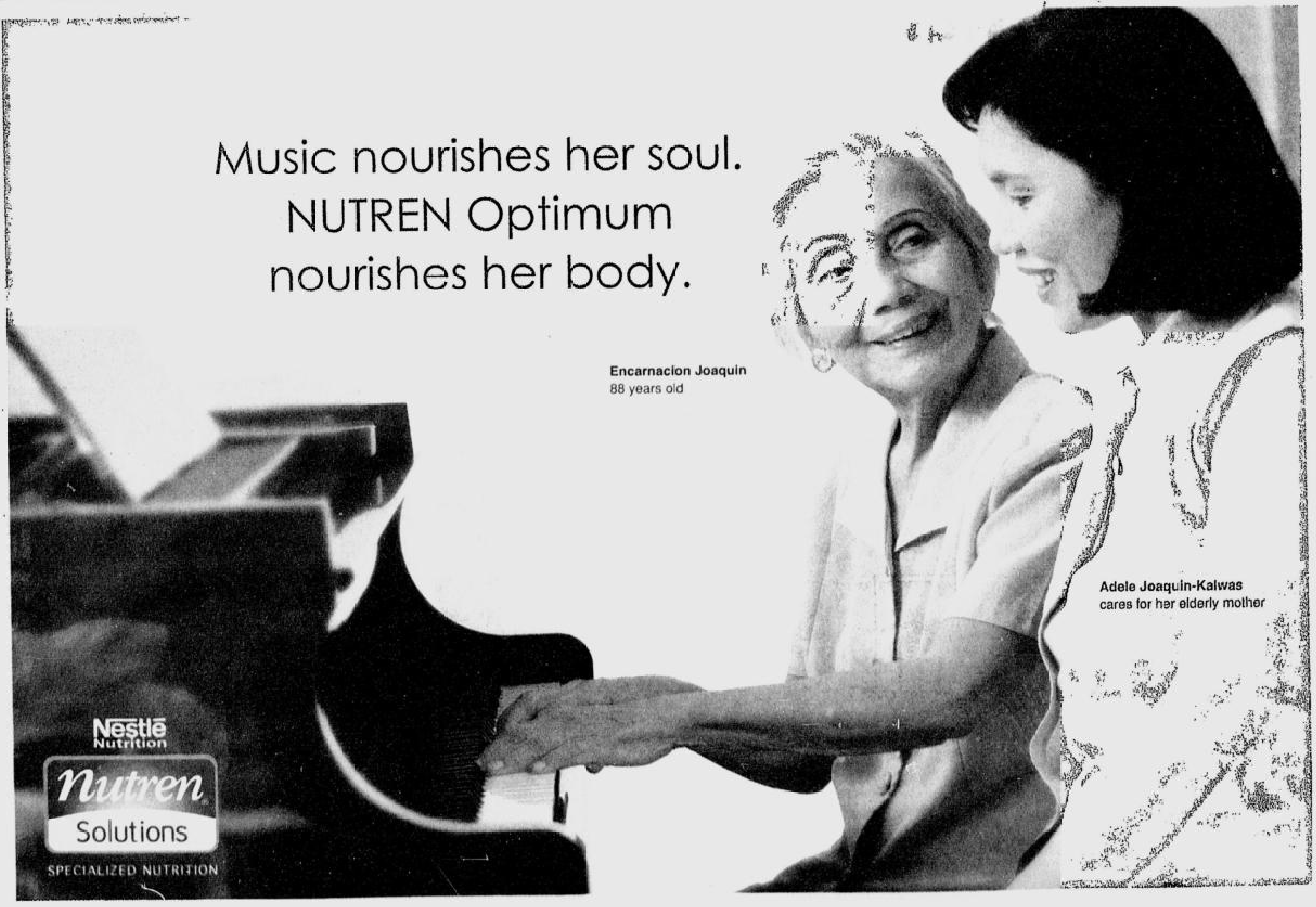
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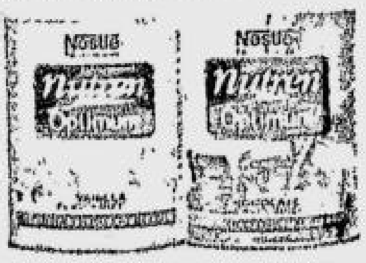
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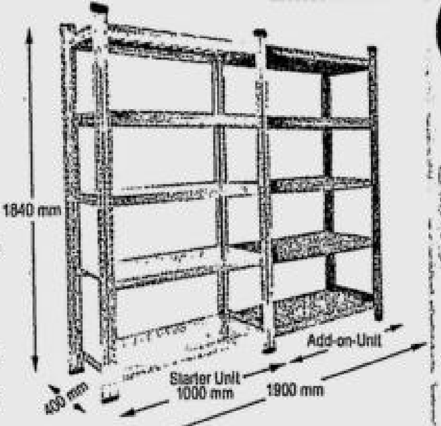

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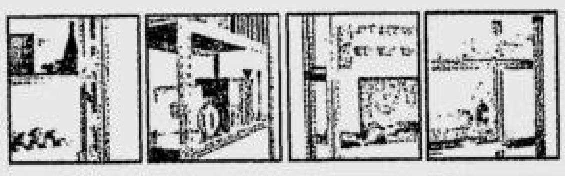

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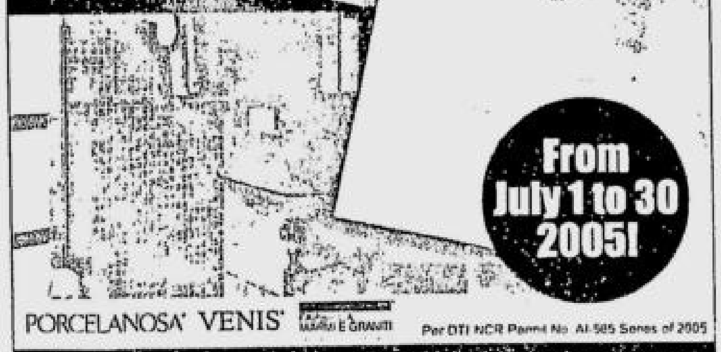

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Hong Kong lovers don't know what to do in bed, says report

HONG KONG—Hong Kongers usually rank near-bottom of the international list of lovers and a social worker may have discovered why: they don't know what to do between the sheets.

Grace Wong of the southern Chinese territory's Family Planning Association said the number of inquiries at her agency rocketed 50 percent last year, with many clients claiming to have no idea how to have sex.

"Some married couples are not familiar with their body parts," Wong was quoted as telling the Sunday Morning Post. "They don't know where their sex organs are."

"They don't know the physical changes associated with sexual response, like males getting an erection," she added.

Regular international surveys by condom manufacturers have found the city is less than amorous. Durex's last poll found Hong Kongers get it together 79 times a year, while the French manage it the most, at 137 times.

Another poll even suggested Hong Kong men prefer to go to work rather than have sex.

The frenetic work ethic in the former British colony is usually blamed for interfering with the course of nature.

But the paper said sociologists believe Chinese sensibilities, which deem discussion of sex even in school as taboo, are responsible. AFP

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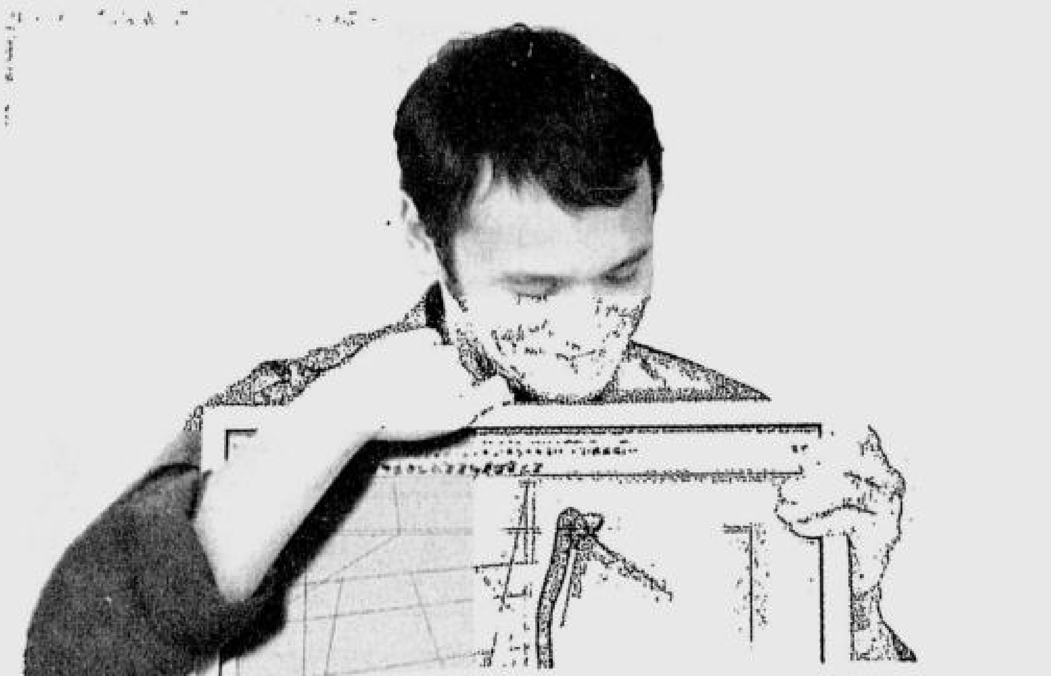

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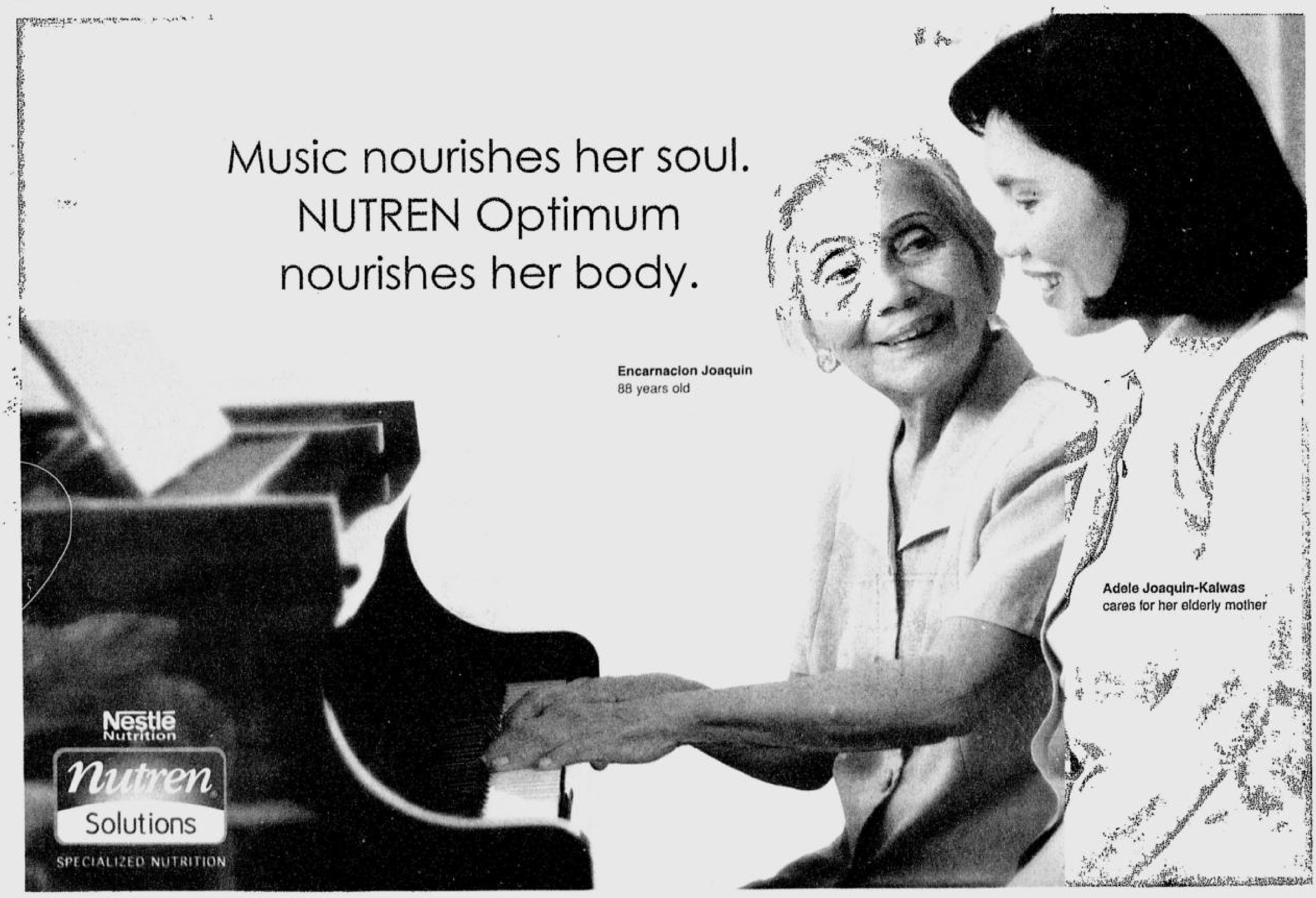

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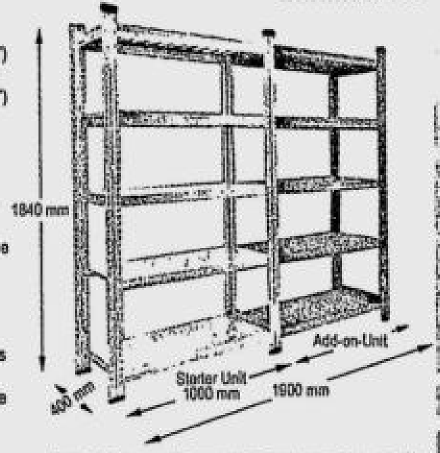

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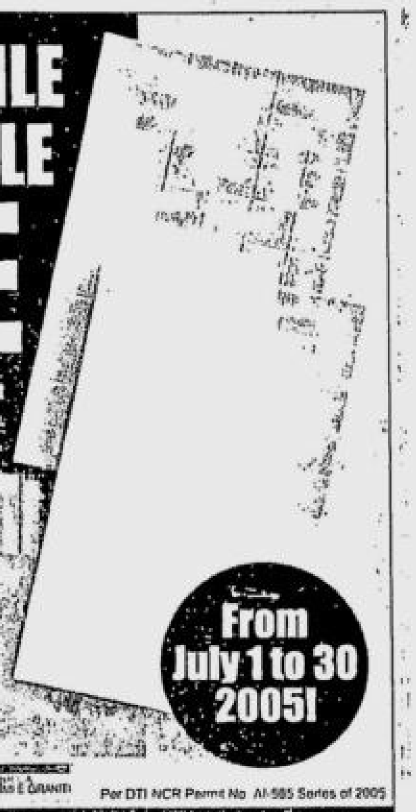

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What the public thinks

EDITORIAL

THE LATEST Social Weather Stations survey, conducted last week and released last Friday, is a political grab bag: it has something for everyone. But it is a sign of the political polarization taking place that both the administration and its critics recognize only the results most damaging to the other side.

The most eye-catching result is the obvious one, a finding that the opposition will use in the next several days: An outright majority of those surveyed, 59 percent, believe that President Macapagal-Arroyo instructed a Commission on Elections official to cheat in last year's elections.

In the coming days, those in the administration will use one of the more obscure results, a finding which did not even appear in some media reports: In spite of that outright majority, only 18 percent said they wanted the President to resign.

It is incumbent on the media to put these survey findings, and the survey itself, in perspective. The SWS survey was taken, at the pollster's own initiative, from Tuesday, June 28, to Thursday, June 30: the first three days after Ms Arroyo's televised apology.

It was also conducted only in Metro Manila, and only among those in the population who have telephones at home. "An achieved sample size of 526 [respondents] implies a sampling error margin of + 4% at the 95% confidence level for the reference population of adults with landlines in Metro Manila," the SWS noted in its own news release.

In the same release, the SWS claimed that 94 percent of the sample had followed the controversy over the alleged wiretapped conversations between the President and Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. The survey results, however, and the questionnaire itself, raise the question whether this is indeed the case. Some 58 percent of the respondents said they either followed the issue "very closely" or "somewhat closely." Another 22 percent said they followed it "just a little"; 14 percent, however, did not follow it at all. (The choice, in Filipino, was "*Halos hindi sinundan*," but SWS translated this, on two occasions, as "Not at all followed." There is, one would think, a world of difference.)

Other aspects of the telephone survey also invite closer scrutiny, or at least further elaboration. But even given all these limitations, the survey still proves itself useful.

At the very least, it serves as a kind of reality check, against which we can test our respective readings of public opinion.

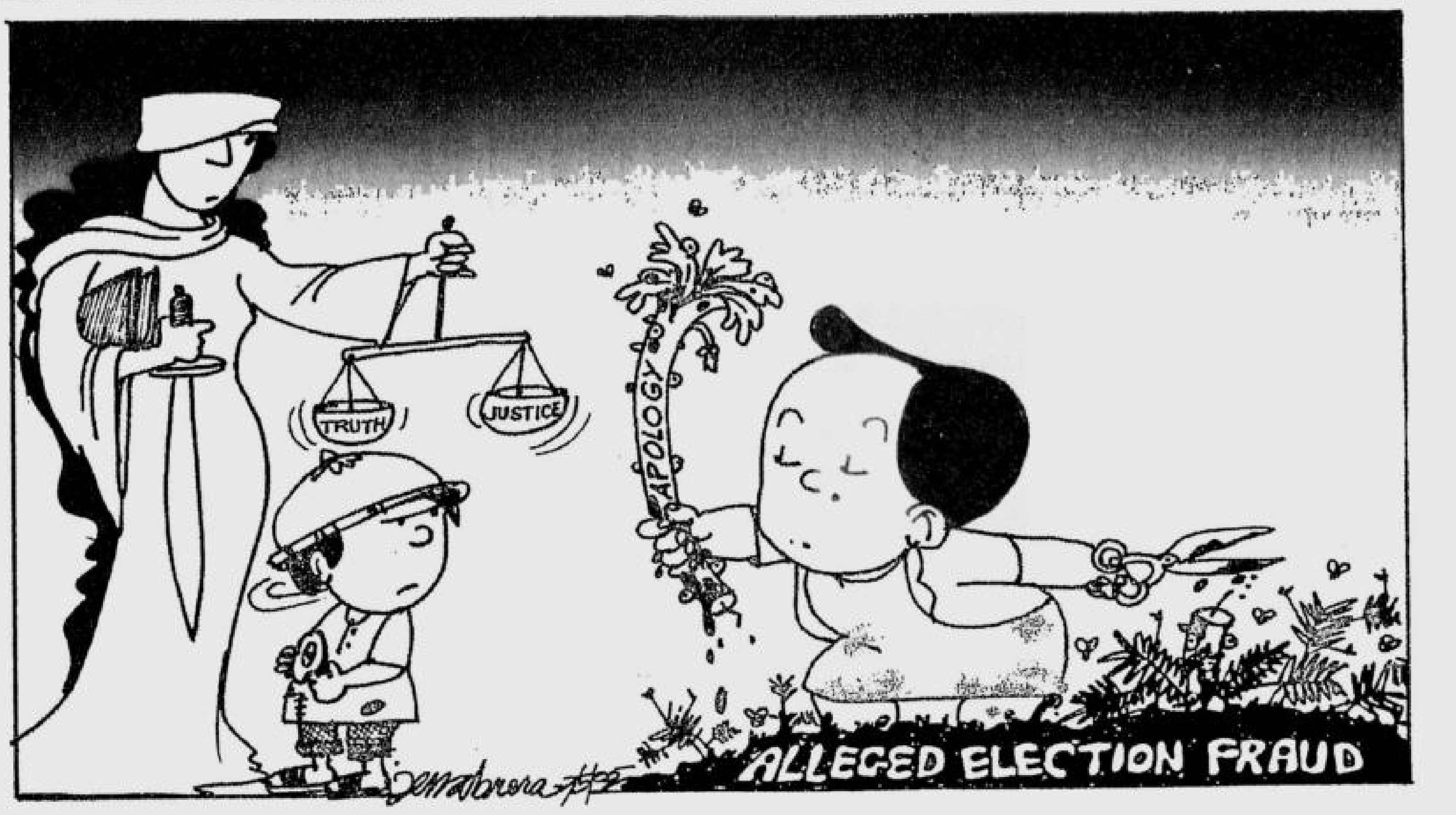
It is clear, for example, that a consensus exists for getting to the bottom of the issue. Of those who said they were aware of the controversy, 77 percent did not agree with the President that it was time to "close the chapter." On another question, 73 percent said they were strongly in favor of the airing of the tapes. Add the 11 percent who said they were somewhat in favor, and the total is an overwhelming 84 percent.

At the same time, we do not yet find the numbers that would suggest public outrage. The 18 percent who want the President to resign (of the 77 percent who said it was not yet time to close the chapter) is smaller than the minority (20 percent of all respondents) who want closure.

Of those who think certain steps need to be taken after the President's apology, a quarter (26 percent) want the matter to be investigated or the truth to be ascertained.

To be sure, and as the SWS notes, previous polling data suggest that Metro Manila residents without landlines tend to look more unfavorably at the Arroyo administration. A survey that would include those without landlines in the random sample, therefore, would likely bear more bad news for the President.

All in all, then, this was a survey with very limited application. But at the same time, we do think that the main conclusion we can draw from the survey's numbers faithfully reflects the national mood. The public wants the necessary next steps to be taken: air all the tapes, investigate the case, determine the truth. In the meantime, it is withholding judgment.



Don't anger people some more with E-VAT

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

AN INDICATION of the people's lack of trust in President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Supreme Court is the talk going around that the TRO (temporary restraining order) issued by the tribunal was upon orders of the President. Reason: To lessen the people's anger against the President because of the E-VAT Law, which will trigger steep increases in prices. I don't believe that.

If the President had wanted to staunch the people's anger, she herself would have suspended the implementation of the E-VAT Law. The people would have loved her for that. With the Supreme Court stopping its implementation, the credit goes to the high court, not to her. The opposition congressmen who filed the petition get double credit.

This is the worst time to increase taxes. The President is courting fate if she forces the implementation of the new E-VAT law. The people are already demanding her resignation because of the perception that she cheated in the 2004 elections, as exposed by the wiretapped tapes. Why anger them some more? Prices of commodities and transportation fares are already going up because of the rising prices of oil products, why contribute to their further increase? Most people already have a difficult time making both ends meet, why make it harder for them by increasing taxes?

The best time to raise taxes is when the economy is robust and the people have plenty of money, not when they have little, to spend.

The President brands herself as an "economist" but forgets an elementary principle in economics. The economy suffers when the people have less money to buy goods manufactured by the factories. Because they sell less of their products, the companies pay less taxes. The government's tax income goes down.

One way to boost the economy is to give the people more spending money. That will produce a chain reaction that will mean more business for companies and they will pay more in taxes.

When the American economy suffered a depression during the time of President Ronald Reagan, that's what he did. He imposed a tax cut to give the people more spending money and the economy recovered. That came to be known as "Reaganomics."

Our "economist" President is doing the exact opposite, a policy that I call "Glorianomics." Instead of leaving people with more spending money, she is leaving them with less. Because of the high prices caused by VAT, people will be able to buy less of the goods produced by factories; business will suffer and companies will be paying less taxes. Instead of getting more income from a tax increase, the government will be getting less.

But the knee-jerk reaction of most organizations—from the national government to local government units, down to the barangay councils and homeowners associations—is to increase taxes and fees when their budgets fall short of their expenses. They think only of their needs, never of their constituents. They never stop to think that if they, the organizations, are having a hard time making both ends meet, their constituents are having an even harder time doing so.

To balance income and expense, the taxpayers tighten their belts and try to make do without the luxuries. The organizations can do the same, but they don't because they can always increase taxes and fees.

Do you know that the national government, by just plugging the tax loopholes, can collect an additional amount bigger than what it expects from the VAT? Expected income from the E-VAT is P31 billion. But the amount of taxes lost because of inefficient collection is estimated at P41 billion.

Cutting government expenses can lessen the budget deficit. Just by reducing all allowances by 20 percent across the board, the government will save tens of billions of pesos. Stopping the wasteful "car plans" for executives of most government offices, especially government corporations, will save billions more. And by abolishing the even more wasteful pork barrel system, the most glaring example of corruption, will save even more billions.

By the way, do you know that the government does not know how much its total tax collection is at the end of the day? The banks keep the money for several days and use them for themselves before remitting them to the Philippine Treasury. That was how syndicates composed of bank personnel and employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue were able to steal taxes already collected by depositing them in different accounts.

When the shenanigans are discovered, it takes an eternity for the courts to send the culprits to jail. By the time they are convicted, they have already escaped abroad with the loot.

So how do you expect the people to be happy paying higher taxes when taxes already collected are stolen, first by the tax collectors themselves, then by the public officials the people elected into office? Why will they not protest paying higher taxes when they know that their rich countrymen are not paying their just share?

How much taxes did Iggy Arroyo, the second richest congressman, pay for his P300 million declared assets? How did he earn his wealth? If he inherited it, did he pay any inheritance tax?

How much personal income tax did the richest congresswoman, Rep. Cynthia Villar, pay? How much personal income tax did her husband, Sen. Manny Villar, the richest senator, pay? How much income tax did presidential son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo (on leave but still collecting all his salaries and allowances, including pork barrel), the 18th richest congressman, pay in taxes? And how did he acquire his riches?

How about the other richest congressmen and senators in the Top 20 list? How much income taxes did they pay? The people want to know.

Prayer

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

FRANKLY, I cannot comprehend Corazon Aquino's position on GMA. Breaking her silence last Thursday, Aquino said she has always stood by the Constitution. Breaking it won't do us any good. "To step outside the Constitution will only expose us to greater danger than the injustice we want to correct." She said People Power will succeed "only if it is for others." "It was so in 1986…it was so in 2001. But people power for one's self will never succeed." What we need to do now, she said, is pray. "Prayer, and the strength and courage that prayer gives, gave us back our freedom and protected it."

I agree from head to toe: To step out outside the Constitution will only expose us to horrendous danger. But, pray—while at the subject of prayer—who in God's name has stepped outside the Constitution with such breathtaking brazenness only the blind can possibly fail to see it? The last time I looked at the Constitution, its preamble said we, the sovereign people, want to have the blessings of democracy "under a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality and peace." What is true, just, free, loving, equal and peaceful about GMA calling Virgilio Garcillano during the canvassing, asking him to delay the senatorial canvassing in Marawi, approving of his methods in "*magpataas sa inyo,*" and accepting his suggestion to kidnap a witness to cheating?

And the last time I looked at the Comelec, it affirmed that it was an independent constitutional body "mandated to give life and meaning to the basic principle that sovereignty resides in the people." It also said that before its existence the supervision of elections resided in the executive, specifically under the Department of the Interior, a thoroughly idiotic arrangement that allowed the president to manipulate the results. Yet having been created to correct that idiocy, it unleashed the very same idiocy, allowing the president to manipulate the results.

I couldn't agree more: To flout the Constitution will expose us to a greater danger than the injustice we want to correct. But Cory shouldn't tell that to the people who want to oust GMA, she should tell that to the people who foisted GMA on us against our will. She should tell that to Namfrel, about which Garcillano expressly said when GMA worried about "the other side" trying to get Namfrel's copies of the municipal COCs: "*Wala naman*…Namfrel is now sympathetic to us." She should tell that to Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Bill Luz and Dinky Soliman who not only turned a blind eye to GMA's efforts to steal the elections but actively participated in it.

Is it possible Cory can see that any move, however principled, to oust the pretender Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo steps outside the Constitution; but that any move, however unscrupulous, to thwart the will of the sovereign people does not? Indeed, never mind violating the Constitution, mind only—while still on prayer—violating the Ten Commandments. Isn't one of those fire-and-brimstone, etched-in-tablet, commandments, "Thou shalt not steal"?

I agree as well from head to toe that People Power will only succeed if it is for others, not for one's self. But surely that is even truer of government? Indeed, never mind succeed, mind only exist. Surely no government may exist only for one's self, only for others? Can any leader in this country after Marcos embody more selfishness, more acquisitiveness, more craving for power than GMA? Can any leader have shown more ambition with less desire to work? I will not say since Marcos because Marcos at least took risks to declare martial law, GMA merely hid under the bed—a phrase Cory should be familiar with—during Edsa II, crawling out of it only when the battle was over to claim the crown. Later, she would attribute her discovery of courage not to Cory, who now defends her to high heavens, but to a pope who was too dead to call her a liar. She said it was Pope John Paul II who begged her to slither out of the woodwork and fight.

I agree, Cory's quest for justice for a husband murdered by Marcos was more than an act for one's self, it was an act for others. I agree, civil society's quest for justice for a nation betrayed by Erap was more than an act for one's self, it was an act for others. A quest for justice, however done for the most personal reasons, always rises beyond itself and conscripts into its ranks all humanity by a power more obdurate than the draft. It's true, *hindi ka nagiisa*, the murder of one man murders us all, justice for that one man resurrects us all. So why now should the quest for justice for both the murder of the sovereign will by cheating and the betrayal of the nation by *jueteng*, however disparate the motives that fuel it, suddenly constitute an act of selfishness? The hardest person to wake up is the one pretending to be asleep, the hardest person to bring to see is the one pretending to be blind.

And still I agree from head to toe that prayer is a most wondrous thing. But there are prayers and prayers. There is praying for rain when irrigation can easily water the fields, the kind of prayer Rizal assailed the friars for. And there is praying for God to grant us courage and fire and unwavering purpose to carry out what needs to be done. Wasn't it Christ himself who said, "Not all who say 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of God"? Prayers are never uttered by the mouth, they are uttered by the heart. They are not found in lips quivering with the weight of supplication, they are found in hearts soaring with the wings of conviction.

I do know how to pray, too: With leaders like these, please *lang* God, help us.

Constitutional measures

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

I AGREE with those who say that, for our own sakes, the solution to the current crisis in the presidency, whichever direction it may take, should not run counter to the Constitution. However, it is important to determine what is constitutional and not constitutional; and also to remember that what is extra-constitutional is not necessarily unconstitutional.

The current controversy centers around the rising clamor for the President to vacate the office. How is that constitutionally possible? Our Constitution offers four causes which can create a vacancy—death, permanent disability, resignation, and removal by impeachment. Admittedly, all of these are imperfect means and can result simply in moving the problem to a subsequent and also problematic phase. Some, therefore, might opt for the preservation of the status quo; but the question can very well be, "What status quo do you want to preserve?" Status quo *ante*, or status quo *nunc*? Neither satisfies.

I don't know anyone who is thinking about death as a solution. But when this occurs in normal circumstances, no controversy arises from it. Quezon, Roxas and Magsaysay all died in office and the transition was smooth.

What of resignation? Resignation can be the least disruptive if it is categorical, and if those who want the President out will honor the constitutionally designated successor. When the resignation, however, is not categorical, controversy follows. The nation debated about resignation in 1985, when the Batasan Pambansa—through BP 883—and upon the initiative of President Marcos, called for a "snap election" before the end of his term. The opposition to the "snap election" rested on the argument that there was no vacancy to fill. When the case was brought to the Supreme Court, the Court failed to declare BP 883 unconstitutional. Some justices argued in support of the law saying that President Marcos had "conditionally resigned" or had made a postdated resignation and that this was enough. (At that time, however, there was no vice president who could step in.)

More recently, in justifying the ascent of Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency, some justices held that Estrada's departure from Malacañang was equivalent to resignation or even abandonment of office. Thus, the vice president was allowed to ascend. The opposition has not forgotten this.

"Permanent disability" too is not easily constrained in meaning. It has been argued that permanent disability does not necessarily mean physical or mental disability. It can mean moral disability or the inability to govern. This meaning was defended by at least one justice in the case of President Estrada. It was argued that because Estrada had been abandoned by his Cabinet, by the military and the police, he had been rendered unable to govern. Thus, the vice president was sworn in as president.

Impeachment, as we witnessed recently, can also be problematic. A successful impeachment has been deliberately made difficult by the Constitution. The Constitution believes that the security of tenure is important especially for high-ranking officials. Thus, the removal of a president is envisioned as an extreme resort. The philosophy seems to be that suffering a tolerably bad president can be the lesser evil. This is a thought eminently worth pondering, especially when one considers the current alternatives.

Finally, was the post-election 1986 event unconstitutional? We have it on the authority of the Supreme Court that what happened then was a successful revolution which changed not only an administration but also a government and a Constitution. The Court said that revolution is a right of the sovereign people and therefore not unconstitutional even if extra-constitutional. I must add, however, that to be acceptable a revolution must first succeed! This is one of the facts of life.

Where are we at the moment? I see no indications that the President intends to resign either unconditionally or conditionally. But if she does resign, constitutionality points to a Noli de Castro presidency. Will that quiet the unrest?

As to disability, her physical and mental health seem unaffected and, to the best of my knowledge, she still has the support of the Cabinet, the military, the police and a not insignificant portion of the population.

What of impeachment? The impeachment process is still there, warts and all, and constitutional. If, however, the proceeding is started now only to fail, impeachment will not be available until after one year.

As to a revolution patterned after the 1986 event, I do not see that as the clamor of the legitimate opposition. All they want is to regain power.

The stark reality is that the current status quo is unacceptable. Moreover, the President's credibility has been severely damaged and her ability to govern has been considerably impaired. Indeed, redemption is always a possibility; converts have been known to become saints. For the sake of the nation, she must seek redemption and demonstrate to the people dramatic and effective reforms both personal and structural. There are things which the Constitution allows the executive power to do without having to wait for Congress. She must do these very soon if she wants her presidency to survive.

Arroyo's gamble

COMMENTARY

Luis V. Teodoro

HER perception that the threat of a People Power uprising or of a military coup had waned seemed to have emboldened President Macapagal-Arroyo into admitting last June 27 that it is her voice in the "tapes" of the allegedly wiretapped conversations between her and "a Comelec official."

Ms Arroyo's confession can still backfire, however. The more perceptive realized, even as she was broadcasting her admission live, that she was also thus validating the tapes' authenticity, and admitting to the accuracy of their contents. Despite Ms Arroyo's claim that she did not cheat, the phone conversations between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano suggest that there was indeed a conspiracy to manipulate the results of the May 2004 vote.

It was immediately apparent that this and other implications did not escape the public, and certainly not the opposition. Susan Roces' joining the chorus demanding that Ms Arroyo resign was one of the immediate consequences of the Arroyo confession. Fernando Poe Jr.'s widow is now threatening to be the voice and face of an opposition whose seeming disarray has been to Ms Arroyo's advantage.

Ms Arroyo apparently risked her confession's backfiring because she could no longer deny it was she on the tapes (that question is easily resolved by voice analysis experts). But she was also hoping that her show of contrition would prevent middle-class apathy from developing into the kind of outrage and unity (with other disgruntled sectors) that have removed two presidents.

Ms Arroyo appeared confident over live TV despite the risks she took. And there were earlier signs that recent events had made her confident—perhaps too confident. Her administration had lasted way beyond the 72-hour June 12 weekend that its own spokespersons said were critical to its survival. A National Day of Protest called for June 24 by anti-Arroyo political forces came and went without incident. Former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat called off a march on Malacañang last June 25.

Ms Arroyo had previously refused to engage her opponents. But during the launch of the Philippine Report on the UN Millennium Development Goals the previous week, she declared that her "detractors" had gone too far, and that she would not be moved from pursuing her economic reforms—or, to put it in another way, that she would cling to the presidency no matter what the cost.

"No one," Ms Arroyo declared, "shall block the path of the presidency, not even my irresponsible detractors who wish to set back our gains and reverse our engine of growth and development."

While Ms Arroyo was entangled in that convoluted metaphor, a number of her governor allies, including Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, warned they would establish autonomous regional governments if she was ousted.

The governors justified this plan in terms of the usual "welfare of our constituents." But the intent was obvious: to frighten the entire country into either passively or actively supporting Ms Arroyo; the alternative to the country's losing her would be its Balkanization into feudal fiefdoms.

The Arroyo administration, however, has been responding in other ways to the threats to it. Long before her June 27 declaration, Ms Arroyo had set into motion a series of responses meant to prevent her ouster—or, as she would perhaps put it—steps to assure that no one would "block the path of the presidency."

Primarily she's used the letter of the law, especially the laws on sedition and inciting to sedition. Meanwhile, the National Telecommunications Commission warned broadcast media that they could lose their permits to operate if they aired tapes or CDs of the supposedly wiretapped phone conversations.

And there was also the earlier threat from the justice department to investigate the media organizations that aired the tapes or uploaded them into their websites.

These efforts were hardly surprising. They occurred in the context of a policy decision for the administration to use the law, despite the Bill of Rights, to diminish the exercise of free expression, including press freedom, and to threaten critics into silence via the country's ample supply of national security laws.

In the days before June 27, Malacañang had also been taking the verbal offensive. Ms Arroyo likened herself to the assassinated Ninoy Aquino during the launch in Malacañang last June 24 of awards named after the late senator—in an effort to paint herself as the victim of character assassination.

Speaking on the same day at another function, Ms Arroyo described those demanding her resignation or removal as "enemies" seeking to reverse Edsa II and the results of the May 2004 elections, which she insists she had won fairly.

In the same busy day for the administration, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye impugned the character of Archbishop Oscar Cruz and suggested that the latter could be an "unwitting pawn" of Ms Arroyo's detractors. Archbishop Cruz had alleged that Ms Arroyo received help from "*jueteng*" operators when she ran for vice president in 1998, and again in May 2004.

Far from falling apart, as her more optimistic foes predicted, Ms Arroyo became more and more confident past June 12. She has since made herself visible to the media via visits to the provinces and other activities meant to suggest "business as usual" for the presidency.

Despite the contrition in her words in the evening of June 27, at some moments there was more than a hint of the arrogance that, together with the growing impoverishment of more and more Filipinos during her watch, has helped drive her approval ratings to sub-zero.

Ms Arroyo apparently thought that her June 27 confession—and her sending her husband off to (comfortable) "exile" in the United States—could buy her enough time as well as middle-class indifference to the calls for her resignation or removal. The price is her holding on to power—while she virtually admitted not only to an "impropriety" but, in effect, also to the manipulation of the last elections as her critics have charged.

Whether her gamble will indeed pay off should indicate if indeed the country—especially the middle class whose members were so much in evidence in Edsa I and II—has grown so cynical over the electoral process that it is prepared to tolerate the rule of a President many believe to be illegitimate.

Luis V. Teodoro is a professor of journalism at the University of the Philippines.

The world's most beautiful woman

COMMENTARY

Isabel T. Escoda

FOR some years now, many people like myself believe that the world's most beautiful woman lives in Burma (Myanmar). Taped on the side of my computer is a photograph of her, with a shawl around her shoulders, sitting barefoot under a viney tree trunk, her elbows on her knees and her face cupped in her hands. She looks like a much lovelier Audrey Hepburn.

Hailed around the world by luminaries like former Czech President Vaclav Havel, Nobel Peace laureate Dalai Lama, diplomats, writers, rock stars and ordinary people, this paragon of beauty and bravery celebrated her 60th birthday last June. The pop group REM sang a song for her over the BBC, and Hong Kong's Radio 3 featured the Rogers/Hammerstein song "You'll Never Walk Alone" in her honor.

This awesome lady's four-syllable name is well known—Aung San Suu Kyi. She's the legitimate leader of the Burmese nation, having won by a landslide in 1990—an election suppressed by the military thugs now ruling the country.

On her 60th birthday, she was on her 2,523rd day under detention. She was arrested for standing up against the present illegitimate regime. Some call her the Asian, female version of Nelson Mandela.

A photo on the front page of the June 18 issue of the International Herald Tribune showed a Filipina setting up balloons and posters with Suu Kyi's picture and the words: "Free Aung San Suu Kyi!—Akbayan." Former President Corazon Aquino had joined Akbayan to call on the ruling tyrants in Rangoon to free this imprisoned icon of democracy.

But a similar protest was not held in October 2003 when Southeast Asian heads of state met in Bali at the Asean's annual meeting. It was crucial then for world leaders, past and present, to issue a strong condemnation of the attack by pro-government mobs on Aung San Suu Kyi as she toured northern Burma with her followers, some of whom were killed. She had just undergone a gynecological operation, but nevertheless she was placed under detention, then put under house arrest again.

None of the Asean leaders at the Bali summit, which included President Macapagal-Arroyo, made a statement assailing that attack as they debated whether to allow the Burmese generals to take on the Asean chairmanship in the near future. Unfortunately, there were few reports about the attack, mainly because the western press has few representatives in Burma (CNN, after all, mainly goes for "sexy" stories and doesn't consider Burma a priority).

Incensed by this, I urged some friends to join me in a protest at the Consulate of Myanmar (the name given by the dictatorial regime to the country) in Hong Kong. I made large posters showing Suu Kyi's picture (taken from the cover of her book, "Freedom from Fear") and printed: "Shame on Asean for allowing Myanmar thugs to represent Burma—free the country's legitimate leader, Aung San Suu Kyi!"

But at the last minute, my friends declined to join me, so I went alone to the Consulate of Myanmar downtown. I had informed two English-language newspapers earlier about my plan (thinking there would be a group of us protesting), but only one paper sent a reporter. He photographed me taping the posters under the consulate insignia, after which I handed a statement to the receptionist—to be given to the consular officials.

It read: "This is a protest against the continued detention of Burma's legitimate leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. . . I am outraged at the inhuman treatment shown by the May 30th attack on her and her colleagues. Such an act by the Myanmar dictators flouts all civilized rules and blackens Southeast Asia's image. Free Aung San Suu Kyi, the duly elected and legitimate leader of Burma, NOW!'"

Soon three consulate officials appeared, tore down my posters, muttering threats as I left and held up Suu Kyi's book like a banner. They photographed me and the reporter as we boarded a taxi to go to the Indonesian Consulate, where I presented my protest to a consulate official (whose first name, ironically, was "Rizal"). A brief report appeared in the Standard the next day.

As head of the National League for Democracy, Suu Kyi is revered by her people. They observed her 60th birthday at the famed golden Shwedagon pagoda in the heart of Rangoon, defying the authorities' warning not to gather there. Most wore T-shirts bearing Suu Kyi's photo and the slogan, "Set her free!" as they released doves. Reports said they were detained by the authorities and ordered to remove their T-shirts, but similar rites continued around Burma. As one foreign reporter put it, "The men with guns have managed so far to prevail, and the country's moral symbol is their prisoner."

Meanwhile, Burma continues to suffer military rule, ethnic cleansing, forced labor, disease and poverty, while some 1,300 political prisoners languish in jail. So long as China, India and Thailand continue to extend their economic support to Burma, the hated status quo may remain, but Suu Kyi will prevail. As one editorial said, her use of peaceful and nonviolent means of agitation and her courage inspire not just her Burmese followers but people around the world.

Not too long ago, as her British husband was dying of cancer in Britain, Suu Kyi turned down the offer to leave Rangoon to be with him, knowing fully well the authorities would not allow her to return. She had told him when they married that if the time came when she had to choose between him and her country, she would have to choose the latter.

As South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu put it: "As long as she remains under arrest, none of us is truly free."

Isabel T. Escoda has written about Filipinos in Hong Kong in her books, "Letters from Hong Kong," "Hong Kong Postscript" and "Pinoy Abroad," her latest.

Discernment

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

I RECEIVED some compliments for my previous column. But there were those who viewed it as rash and ill-timed. My decision was reached after weeks of observation and reflection. It might help readers to be informed of that process. It is spelled out in great detail in my blog, (www.quezon.ph/blog). For those without an Internet connection, here is a summary of my views.

A leader's fitness to lead and his or her capacity to govern can be measured in two ways: his or her track record over time, and the manner in which he or she responds to controversies.

On the controversial tapes, of greater significance than the versions floating around has been the President's reaction to them. By "President," I refer to both personal and institutional. The President is accountable for the actions of her surrogates (her alter egos in the Cabinet and her other appointees), as well as for the judgment she displays in picking advice to follow (and disregard).

What was more important to me than the actual contents of the tapes was the handling of the issue. I felt the President had to speak up; her taking a long time to do so was as bad as the manner in which she finally spoke up. Had she chosen to remain consistently silent, it would at least have displayed an iron-clad devotion to a certain interpretation of the law; had she chosen to speak up in a more forthright manner, it would have displayed a confidence in her own mandate. However, her careful apology and the actions of her subordinates opened up more questions. Her decision to stand by those actions, implicitly if not explicitly, meant she assumed responsibility for those actions.

Those actions included applying pressure on the media not to discuss the issue—not out of a genuine desire to enforce their interpretation of the law, but out of tactical considerations. There is a difference between the two: to enforce the law without fear or favor at least suggests that the President is sincere in the interpretation of the law; but to merely use it as a tactic discredits the law and the sincerity of the President's position.

In the end, the President, in admitting to something and then apologizing for it, removed the public option to give her the benefit of the doubt; it opened up her mandate to grave doubts.

I believe the President won in 2004. I explained this view at that time in my column and on TV. But as I also said earlier, I felt she'd win by the skin of her teeth. That she did better gave others reasons to doubt her mandate; that was why I approved of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's filibustering in the Senate.

Obviously, GMA's strategists felt that the highest political consideration was to secure a proclamation before inauguration day; but achieving that left the President vulnerable. That vulnerability has been shown by the public's reaction to the tapes.

This now ties in with an even older problem—the question on the legitimacy of her presidency after Edsa II. She was like a soldier who had no weapon and who saw her commanding officer throw his pistol into a pig pen as the latter was about to abandon the field. The pistol was the presidency, the officer who ran away was Estrada; throwing the pistol into a pig pen was the manner by which Estrada tainted the weapon. Naturally, whoever held the weapon would have others complain that the pistol stank. I always said Estrada's supreme disservice to his country was his running away from Malacañang. He did not have the statesmanship to properly relinquish what he couldn't hold on to.

But then you must also tie in two other things: the unfitness demonstrated by Estrada in his response to his allies' attempt at mobilizing mass demonstrations. I said Estrada fell because Chavit Singson proved the dangers that come with kicking a man when he's down. Edsa III happened—never mind the other manipulations—precisely due to the same lack of prudence on the part of Estrada's opponents. The masses that stood aside when he ran away rushed to protest on his behalf when the new government kicked a man who was already down. Nobody made Estrada an object of sympathy more than his bitterest enemies.

Today, ironically, no one makes the President an object of sympathy and tolerance more than her worst enemies. I said, in the first days of the controversy of the tapes, that the targets of people power yesterday can never be the beneficiaries of people power tomorrow. This is being proven day after day: the Left and the Estrada loyalists must painfully learn that they can never be worthy beneficiaries of mass action because, if the present administration has been found wanting, they have been found just as wanting in the past.

This controversy on the tapes extends beyond the President and must engulf not only her subordinates, whose actions she continues to uphold; it also must eat up and destroy the traditional opposition. The name of the game was familiar during the Cold War: brinksmanship and mutually assured destruction. Unless the middle recovers its idealism, unless it takes a stand, it faces a dead end for middle-class values. To cling to the President now is to prove the utter hypocrisy of the values that expelled her predecessor. The institutions might survive, but they would be sterile. Democracy would achieve a Pyrrhic victory; the Constitution would become a dead letter. Those who won Edsa I and II would lose their relevance to the future of this country. Ferdinand Marcos, whose martial law was once hailed by the middle and upper classes, must be laughing. The 59th anniversary of the restoration of our independence, today, might be our last as a viable liberal democracy.

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EPCIB reacts to Cocktales

I WRITE to correct certain errors in several columns of Vic Agustin, which might have misled INQUIRER readers about Equitable PCI Bank and its board of directors.

1. Ambassador Roberto Romulo has all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of an independent director, contrary to the claims of GSIS president Winston Garcia, whom Agustin quotes profusely. He has never been an officer or employee of the EPCIB or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates. Equicom Systems Management (ESM) is not a subsidiary or affiliate of the bank. Romulo's appointment as independent director has been confirmed by both the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

2. EPCIB has made and continues to make donations to foundations or non-government organizations which espouse charitable, civic and other noble causes. EPCIB believes that any foundation in honor of the late, venerable statesman Carlos P. Romulo is worthy of support. Nevertheless, neither EPCIB nor its subsidiaries and affiliates have made any donation of whatever amount and in whatever guise to the Romulo Foundation for Peace and Development Inc. or the Carlos Romulo Foundation, as claimed by Agustin.

3. The Go family has not voted in their favor the bank shares owned by EBC Investments. The nominees of the family were elected to the EPCIB board because of their shareholdings and the proxies voluntarily given by minority shareholders who have consistently given their support to the family since the bank's founding by the family patriarch, Go Kim Pah.

4. EBC Investments, while an EPCIB subsidiary, has the sole authority to determine how its EPCIB shares may be voted. EPCIB's board cannot direct EBC's board how to perform its functions. This position is supported by independent opinions issued by reputable law firms, experts in corporate law.

5. Equitable Bank Foundation is not owned by EPCIB. Used to be known as the Go Kim Pah Foundation, it was established by the Go family in honor of the bank's founder. The shares of the EBF in EPCIB come from the holding companies owned by the Go family.

6. The GSIS was not disenfranchised in the last regular stockholders' meeting. They elected two representatives to the EPCIB board. Three months after election, one of its nominees resigned. The GSIS' designated replacement lacked the qualifications. The board then decided to create the position of a third independent director to further strengthen its good corporate governance program.

The record and performance of the bank over the past few years testifies to its high standards of corporate governance. It posted a net income of P1.8 billion for 2004, a 39-percent increase in net income. It has paid out dividends in the amount of P436 million this year. Itś shares have notably appreciated in value in the stock market over the past 18 months.

—NILO T. DIVINA,
executive vice president,
general counsel and corporate secretary,
Equitable PCI Bank

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Not a lone critic of unknown expertise

I WOULD like to write and inform Antonio Calipjo Go that he is not "a lone critic of unknown expertise" in his crusade against "defective" textbooks. I am another critic.

I used to be a teacher, and it used to give me headaches going through the textbooks of Phoenix just to make sure the drawings and texts were correct. Not only in terms of grammar but also in terms of facts. Go is right. The Phoenix textbooks do contain a hundred errors. And, I find it sad but pitiful that instead of correcting their mistakes, the people responsible for these textbooks are refuting allegations.

Sirs and madams, as a colleague in the education profession, I urge you to review your books before you shout "foul." I write in the hope that the people who are responsible for these textbooks will wake up and do the necessary steps in making sure that these mistakes are corrected. I mean, do you actually believe that the "stars are arranged in an orderly way"? Or that "CONCAVE mirrors have surfaces that curve outward at the center while CONVEX mirrors curve inward"?

And these mistakes are just in Science. For English, do you actually believe that you could be understood if you said, "the best proof of the fruit's goodness is in crunching its freshness"? Or are you kidding when you say, "Vaccination of antibiotics are ways to prevent diseases"?

These examples are, I believe, enough to show Ma. Erlinda Sibal and Dr. Dennis Gonzales, that yes, the textbooks are defective. Please, I beg you, do something about it. Do your job. Calling Go "a lone critic of unknown expertise" was a mistake. The fact that I am here means that he is not alone, and I'm sure there are many other people like me who will agree.

—LYLL KAREN A. BIGORNIA, M.D.,
Cebu City, lkaren@yahoo.com

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RP-MILF peace talks resume this month

THE POLITICAL turmoil in Manila, sparked by claims of election fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo, will not set back negotiations aimed at ending decades of conflict in Mindanao, according to Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

The Philippine government and the MILF will resume peace talks in Malaysia this month, Kabalu said yesterday.

"The unfolding political events in Manila have no bearing whatsoever on our efforts to pursue peace in Mindanao," he told The Associated Press, adding that the talks will resume July 25-26.

He acknowledged that negotiations may be delayed if Arroyo succumbs to growing pressure to step down. But he said it would not shake the process, which is supported by neighboring countries, the United States and the international community.

"If there is an abrupt change of leadership in Manila, it may slow down our talks, but the peace process will go on. Whoever takes over will have to honor an international commitment to resolve this issue," he added.

Eid said the new round of informal talks in Malaysia will tackle the final issue of governance, before formal negotiations are launched. MILF negotiators are expected to submit several proposals for self-rule, ranging from independence to a federal state, he said.

"What's important is that we do not close our door to one option only," he said.

"We are optimistic of coming up with a consensus on the issue of governance, and formal negotiations will follow through on finalizing the formula and the political solution to the conflict."

The government offered limited autonomy in 1996 to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), in exchange for peace. But the MILF, which was formed from a disgruntled MNLF faction, says autonomy is insufficient.

In Cotabato City, the influential Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) that brokered the peace agreement between the Philippine government and the MNLF has assured the government of its continued support to the peace process in Mindanao.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said OIC Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu assured him of their support for the peace and development of Mindanao during the just concluded 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Sana'a, Yemen. *AP; with a report from Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Palparan dares militants to denounce killings

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAASIN CITY—Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commanding general of the Army's 8th Infantry Division operating in Eastern Visayas, has challenged militant groups in the region to denounce the killing of two soldiers and a woman in Basey, Samar on Tuesday.

Palparan said he had yet to hear the groups denounce the killings that he said was perpetrated by the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The slain soldiers—Army Cpl. Harry Cabonce and Pfc. Freddie Dapuya, both of the 83rd Reconnaissance Group based in Barangay Villa Aurora, Basey—were among four soldiers and a number of civilians on board an Army-owned multicab when it was hit by landmines believed to have been placed by communist rebels.

A civilian, Nimfa Tagana, was also killed in the blast that happened at about 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday in Barangay Balente, about 2 km from the Army patrol base in Villa Aurora.

Palparan said the soldiers and the civilians were not on a military mission but just came from the town's public market.

"They (NPA rebels) pushed the button while in full view ... They sacrificed the civilians just to kill the two soldiers," said Palparan, who was here to receive the Outstanding Southern Leyteño award during the 45th founding anniversary of the province on July 1.

"I am challenging Bayan, Gabriela, Anakpawis and other militant organizations to denounce and say things against these activities of the New People's Army and the communist party," he said.

The groups, who have accusing him of human rights violations, including civilian casualties during military operations, should also do the same about the incident in Basey, he said.

If they [do] not raise an outcry, he said, it would only solidify his belief that they and the rebels are allies.

Palparan said they would remain unfazed by Tuesday's ambush. He said the military has been gaining grounds in its campaign against the insurgency in Eastern Visayas, particularly in Samar.

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Ilonggos hope Jaro bishop to head CBCP

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Ilonggos are hoping that Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo will be the next president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines when it elects its new officers this week.

Not only does he enjoy the support of the Jaro clergy, Lagdameo, 64, also has the backing and prayers of local government leaders.

As the incumbent CBCP vice president, Lagdameo is a front-runner in the race. Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, whom the Holy See is expected to name the next Filipino cardinal following the death of Jaime Cardinal Sin, is also a strong contender.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, the current CBCP head who hails from the central Iloilo town of Leon, can still serve another two-year term, but he has declined a nomination.

Msgr. Meliton Oso, director of the Jaro archdiocesan social action center, said Lagdameo deserved the post.

"He's prayerful and rooted in the life situation of his people especially the poor,' Oso said of Lagdameo.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, who is also president of the League of Cities, welcomed the possibility of the Jaro prelate being elected CBCP head.

"It will be a great honor for Iloilo but the choice is really up to the bishops,' said Treñas.

Vice Gov. Roberto Armada said Lagdameo's election would not only give honor to Iloilo where the archbishopric of Jaro is based but to the CBCP as well.

"His zeal to maintain the conservative practices of the Catholic faith will surely do us good, although this will widen the gap between the church and the more liberated sectors of society," he said.

Provincial administrator Manuel Mejorada said it would certainly be a source of pride for the Ilonggos if Lagdameo was elected.

"Archbishop Lagdameo can provide wise leadership to Philippine bishops and help guide the nation on a path of enlightenment. He can also give our leaders frank advice as they tackle serious problems facing the nation," he said.

Among others, Lagdameo played a key role against the entry of coal-fired power plant projects in Iloilo province, citing the harm it could bring to the people and the environment.

He is also a constant figure in many civil society rallies against the government's anti-poor policies for almost five years now.

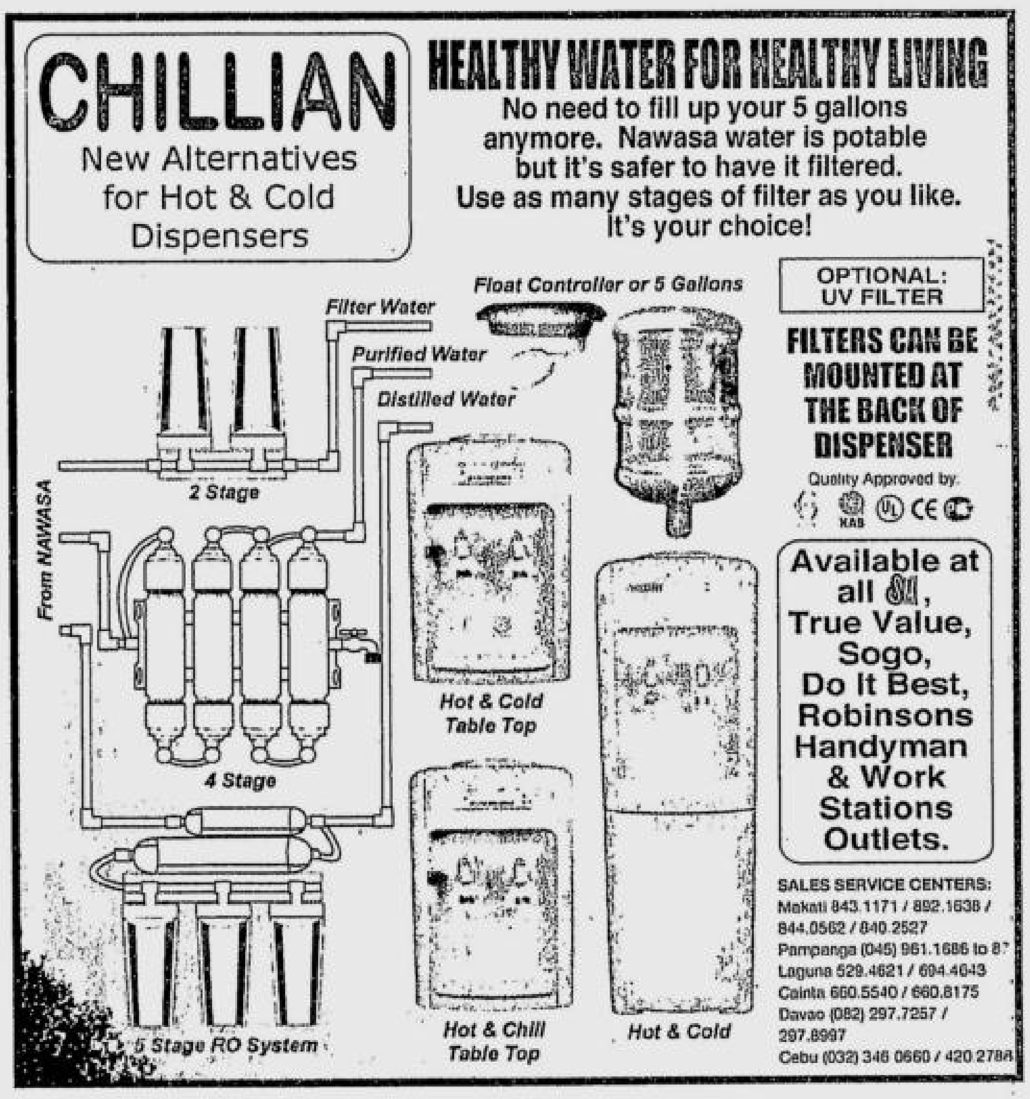
Eighty-one active bishops and 24 retired bishops are convening a plenary meeting in Manila on July 9-10, at a time when the country is deep in a political crisis. The CBCP has yet to issue a unified position on charges of election fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Reports said the bishops were looking for a CBCP president who can fill in the shoes of Sin, regarded as 'a moral force' behind "people power" revolutions that toppled the 20-year dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and the scandal-ridden administration of Joseph Estrada in 2001.

On Friday, Lagdameo called for 'a revolution of the heart' to arrest the worsening political and economic crisis in the country.

In a pastoral statement, he called on his flock "to respond to the evolving political scenario with sobriety, calmness, wisdom and discernment, and not be swayed by heightened emotional reaction." He appealed to politicians both in the administration and the opposition to put their acts together.

"Whatever solution any group may propose, we must strongly reject the path of violence and revolution. We do not set aright wrong with another wrong. It is the people, poor, innocent people who often suffer the most in violence and revolution," Lagdameo said.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Isabela governor reinstates 7 'floating' officials

ILAGAN, Isabela—Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca has reinstated seven provincial officials who were placed on "floating status" for almost a year, citing the provincial government's need for their services.

Reinstated were provincial agriculturist Danilo Tumamao, assessor Guillermo Barreto, cooperative officer Carlito Tumaliuan, planning and development officer Nestor Salvador, engineer Medardo Aggari, accountant Pete Gerald Javier and health officer Rosa Rita Mariano.

Provincial board secretary Manuel Santos, who was among those relieved last year, has resigned from government service.

Padaca's order, issued on June 27, directed the officials to assume their positions on July 15.

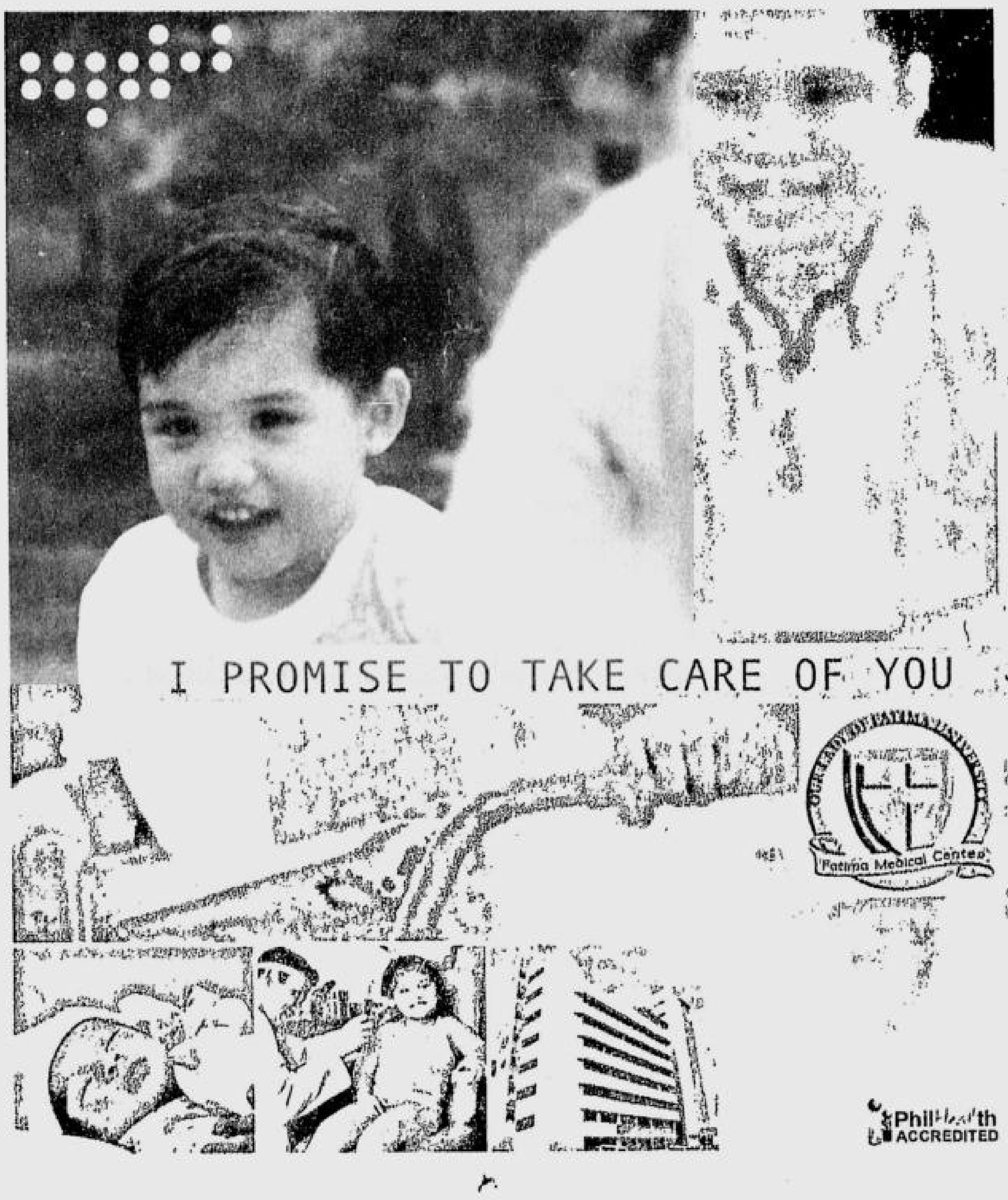
In November last year, the Civil Service Commission in Cagayan Valley ordered Padaca to reinstate the officials when it junked the governor's motion for reconsideration.

The officials last year filed grave abuse of discretion and administrative charges against Padaca for relieving them.

Padaca had earlier said she relieved the officials to enhance the implementation of the provincial government's programs and projects.

The department heads have been serving as permanent employees from six to 29 years.

Tumamao, the group's spokesperson, thanked Padaca for her decision to reinstate them. "I wish it is an act of reconciliation to unify the province and spur economic development," he said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Quezon execs slam DENR inaction on retrieval of logs

INFANTA, Quezon—Hunger and despair continue to linger in Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns as millions of board feet of floating logs now are on the verge of diminishing in value and 147,324 sacks of wood charcoal await buyers, town officials said.

They blame the situation on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its "prevailing attitude of mistrust."

"Our people have no more food to eat. Most of our children were forced to quit school this year. Ironically, we are surrounded by millions of board feet of drifting logs. Our people have stacks of hundreds of thousands of sacked charcoals, which can be easily converted into cash to buy food and other necessities if only the DENR gives the go-signal," General Nakar Mayor Hernando Avellaneda, said in a meeting here Tuesday.

Avellaneda said that in the coastal areas of his town, all kinds of quality logs were floating and only awaiting retrieval.

"We're afraid that if those logs are not retrieved in a couple of months, all of them will be washed out back to the sea only to land in other places," he said.

Infanta Mayor Grace America expressed concern over the possible repeat of the tragedy that struck her town last December if the DENR did not issue guidelines on retrieval operation.

Seven months after flash floods devastated northern Quezon, thousands of logs still remain in the upper Agus River and could form a natural dam that could hold a big volume of flood water.

Those who attended the meeting said the DENR was withholding the necessary permits and guidelines for the retrieval operation. Worse, they said, it had failed to come up with a memorandum that would allow the transport of processed and finished forest products, such as charcoal, out of the province.

Bonifacio Aguilar, general bishop of the International Christian Evangelistic Association based in Infanta, said "the DENR can't even decide when to allow the transport of charcoal."

He recalled that the last time the DENR issued a permit for a one-month period to haul charcoal out of the province, "it took 28 days from Real to General Nakar to bring the letter of authority or just two days before its expiration.

Antonio Principe, DENR regional executive director, said the guidelines were still being prepared.

The department did not want to rush the issuance of the permits to prevent its abuse, he said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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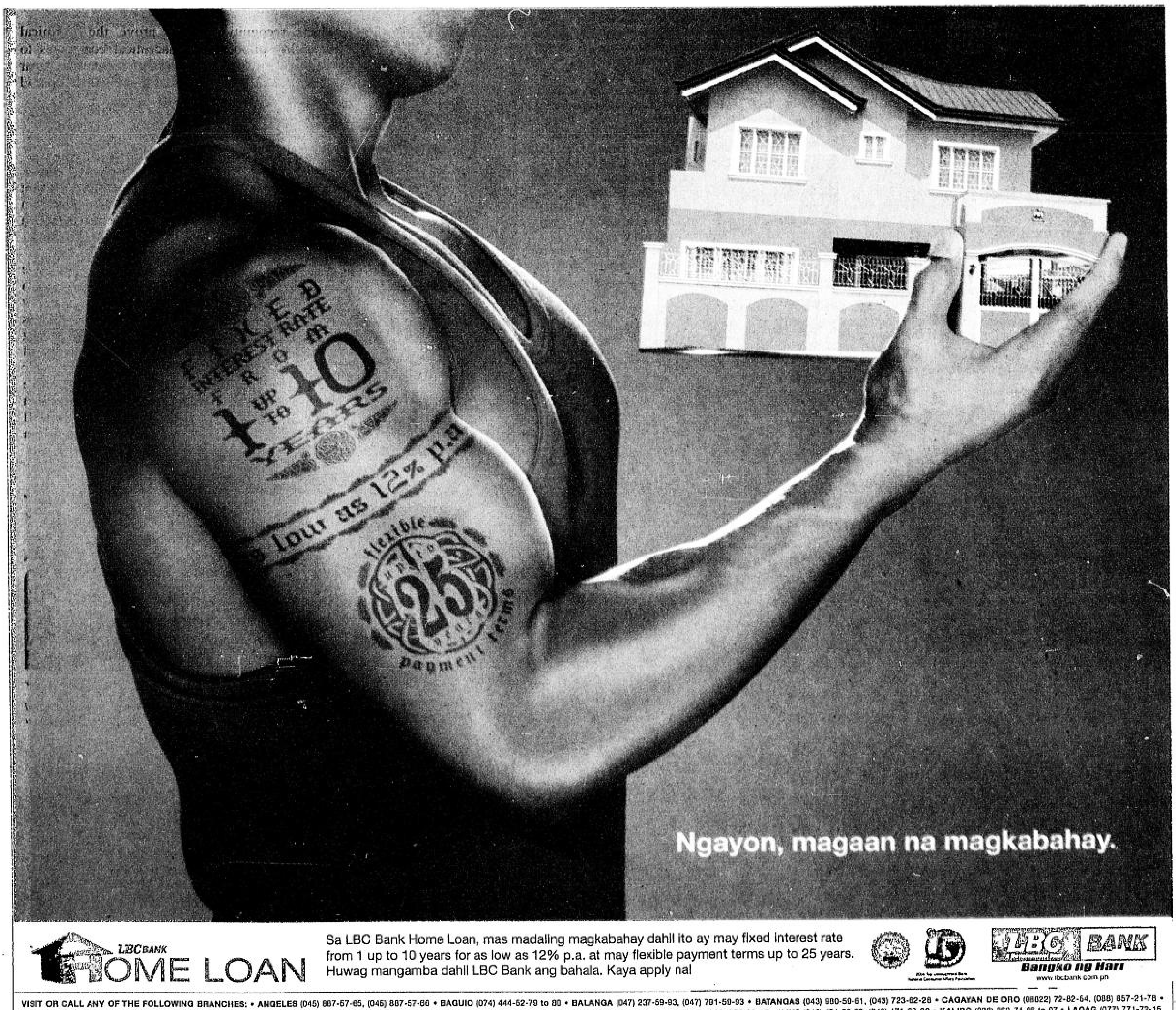
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Serving the Nation through its Health Conscious Goal
ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Message

My warmest greetings to the officers and staff of La Croesus Pharma, Inc.

Your aim to produce high quality but low-priced pharmaceutical products and, at the same time, ensure the accessibility, availability and affordability of drugs and medicines to the Filipino people, which is in consonance with one important item in the government's agenda for poverty alleviation, is truly laudable and worthwhile.

With your Company's effort to follow stringent international standards in the production, quality assurance, and research and development of pharmaceutical products, local drug manufacturing has become globally competitive. The kind of work that your Company has demonstrated, thus, deserving certifications of quality performance, confirms that it is capable of reaching the highest possible standard. Your continued concern for consumer protection by manufacturing safe, effective, and good quality pharmaceutical products through strict adherence to internationally accepted practices is, indeed, commendable.

It is our hope that your Company will continue to live by its vision, as well as, its social commitment.

More Power!

(Sgd). **PROF. LETICIA-BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, MS**
Director

Mr. Enrique Y. Castillo (President and CEO, LAKPUE Group of Companies, Inc.*), Ms. Lizanne Y. Castillo (LCPI VP for Admin & Plant Operations), Mr. Reyland Nepomuceno (TUV Phils., Representative), with the ISO Team of La Croesus Pharma, Inc.*

As it constantly launches its own flagship projects to help meet the medical needs of our society, LCPI shall continue to expand its tolling capacity by acquiring new equipment and setting up additional production facilities to uphold its partnership with local drug traders in the promotion of health.

With its goal to provide quality pharmaceutical products at affordable cost to the country and abroad, LCPI shall pursue its vision to make its name a landmark of service and excellence in the local drug industry.

Mr. Reyland Nepomuceno of TUV Philippines awards the ISO 9001:2000 Certificate to LCPI VP for Admin & Plant Operations, Ms. Lizanne Y. Castillo. Also in picture is the President and CEO, Mr. Enrique Y. Castillo, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS
LA CROESUS PHARMA, INC.
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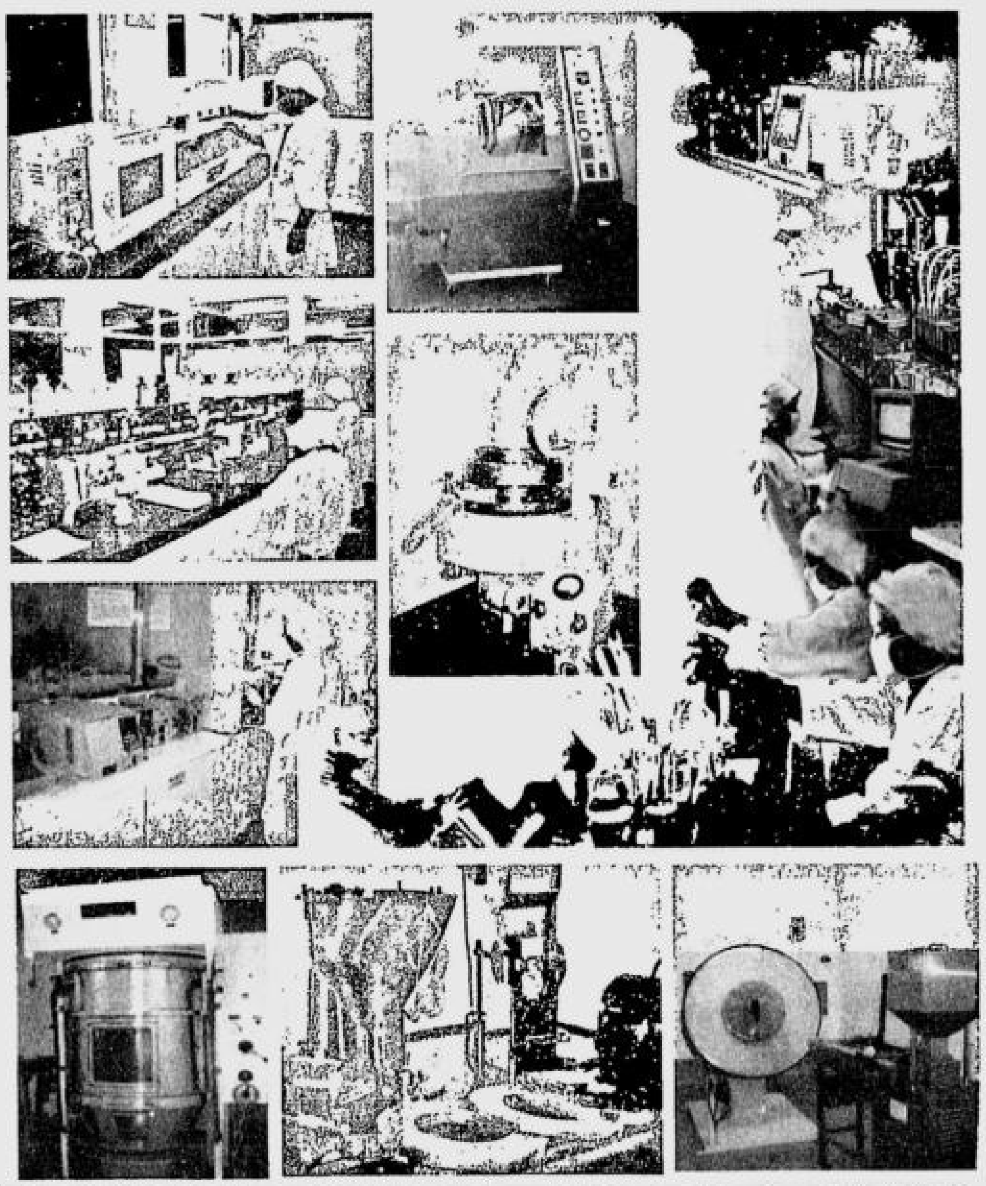
Mr. Enrique Y. Castillo, Jr., Ms. Lizanne Y. Castillo, Mr. Reyland Nepomuceno, standing on the extreme left is Ms. Michelle Lu (LCPI ISO Coordinator), and on the extreme right is Ms. Roselle Revuelta (LCPI Quality Management Representative).



La Croesus Pharma, Inc. (LCPI) is a Filipino-owned pharmaceutical manufacturing company under the Lakpue Group of Companies, Inc. It is engaged in the manufacture and national distribution of both locally made and imported generic and branded pharmaceutical and household consumer products. With state-of-the-art facilities and technically competent and motivated workforce, LCPI has also expanded its business to toll manufacturing services.

Local drug-making has become globally competitive with the company's efforts to follow stringent international standards in the production, quality assurance, research and development of pharmaceutical products.

Certifications of Quality

Amidst the economic uncertainty in the country and the inevitably changing course of modern technology in pharmaceutical manufacturing, LCPI manages to continuously comply with current quality standards. Thus, in October 2003, under the leadership of Enrique Y. Castillo, Jr., President and General Manager of the Lakpue Group of Companies, Inc. and Lizanne Y. Castillo, Vice-President for Administration and Plant Operations, LCPI obtained the prestigious mark of quality management ISO 9001:2000 certificate from the TUV. As an affirmation to LCPI's competence. This certification complemented the highly esteemed Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certificate granted to the company by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

These recognitions only prove the technical capability of local pharmaceutical companies to produce high-quality medicines by operating at par with leading local toll manufacturing plants and multinational drug companies.

Future Plans

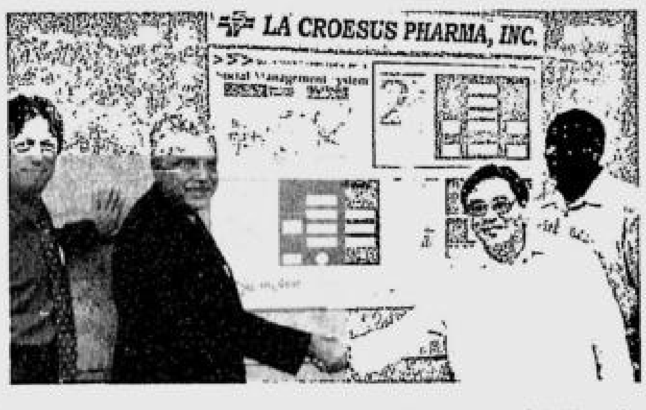
With commitment to excellence in the field of drug manufacturing, LCPI is now on its way to obtain BFAD's Seal of Excellence, the highest recognition given by the bureau to pharmaceutical companies.

Correlating the standards of ISO and GMP with the demands of the millennium while remaining true to its Filipino entrepreneurial spirit, LCPI is actively participating in the formulation of quality standards for future implementation in the forth-coming ASEAN Harmonization on Pharmaceutical Products. It is also currently making preparations for compliance to international certifications like the GMP compliance certificate of the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). This will further strengthen LCPI's presence in the Australian drug industry.

InWent Visits LCPI

The German government, in its objective to help developing countries promote core labor standards, aims to facilitate capacity building for SMEs to improve labor conditions through InWent GmbH (a merger of CDG and DSE), launches SEAL (Social Standard Exchange of Experience in Southeast Asia and Practical Learning), a two-year social responsibility initiative in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Narayanan Sreenivas, ECC International Managing Director cited La Croesus Pharma, Inc. as "very much active in participating in the SEAL Project." It was because of this that LCPI was one of the places that Dr. Ulrich Popp, Chief Executive Director of InWent, visited when he came to the Philippines during the first week of October.



LA CROESUS PHARMA, INC.

From left: Mr. Olaf Neussner (Regional Director of InWent for Southeast Asia, Dr. Ulrich Popp, Mr. Enrique Y. Castillo (Pres. & CEO of the Lakpue Group of Companies, Inc.), Mr. Narayanan Sreenivas.

From left: Mr. Nelson Cebrero (ECCI), Dr. Popp & Mr. Neussner (InWent), Ms. Eileen Co (ECCI), Mr. Enrique Y. Castillo (LGCI Pres. & CEO), Mr. Sreenivas (ECCI), Ms. Cecille Benavides (Special Projects Manager of InWent for Southeast Asia), Ms. Michelle Lu (LCPI Project Coordinator for SEAL).

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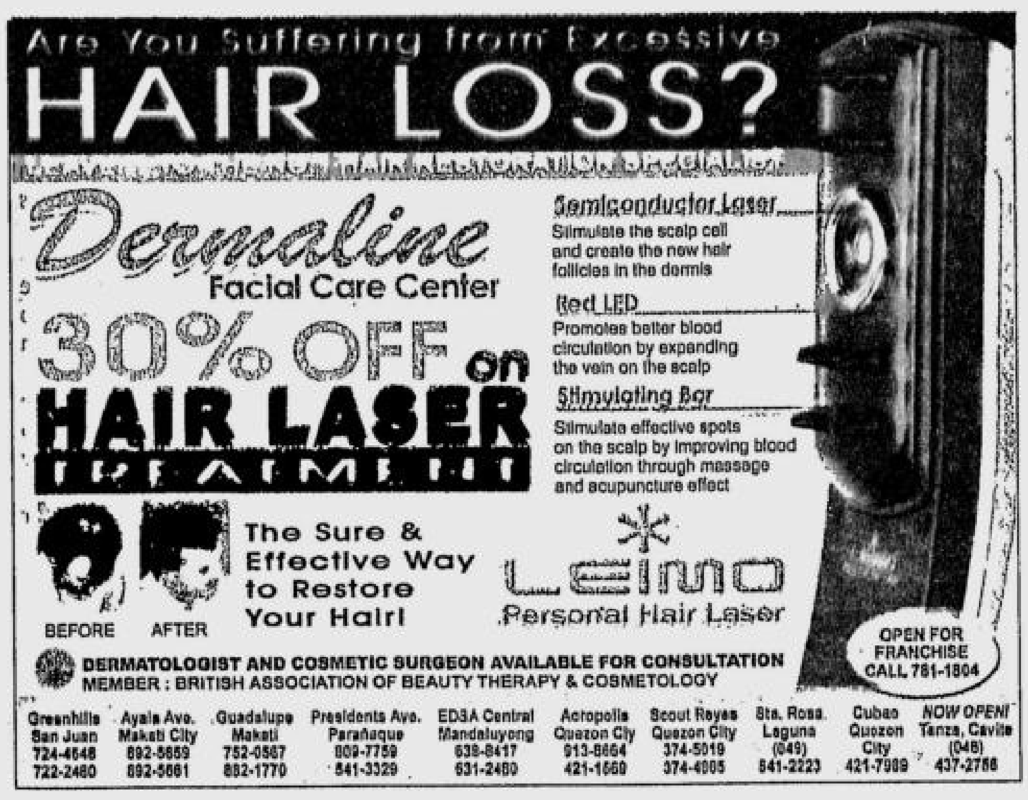
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Siege of Baler recounted

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BALER, Aurora—For almost a week, football trainer Francisco Lopez Servio has stayed in the villages of Casiguran, on the northernmost tip of Aurora, to train local boys.

For a week, too, advertising executive Jesus Valbuena has gone around with a crew documenting on video the life, people and history of this eastern Luzon province.

At about the same time, lawyer and university professor Jose Ignacio Bidon came for a visit—his first—to meet the heirs of the Katipuneros.

Servio, Valbuena and Bidon are all from Spain. And they're not plain tourists charmed by the beaches and other natural wonders of Aurora.

In separate interviews done through an interpreter, they said the ties they were trying to establish and the endeavors they were embarking on are connected to an event that happened 106 years ago: the Siege of Baler.

STUDENTS of Baler Elementary School welcome Sen. Edgardo Angara (L) and Javier Gonzales (R), during 106th anniversary of the Philippine-Spain Friendship day.
JESS YUSON

In that battle, 50 Spanish soldiers and four officers staked out at the Baler Church from June 27, 1898 to June 2, 1899 to defend this part of the Spanish colony. Not knowing that the Filipino-Spanish war was over and that Spain already ceded the Philippines to the United States, they held on, fighting the revolutionaries and resisting several demands for surrender.

They fought despite hunger, illnesses, desertion from among their ranks and fierce fighting by Katipuneros, according to accounts gathered by Augusto de Viana, chief of the research division of the National Historical Institute.

In making their last stand at the Baler Church, the only structure in the town made of stone, they made this town the last Spanish outpost in Luzon.

When the bugle was sounded for the surrender, the 35 men who survived the siege were greeted by revolutionaries with shouts of "Amigos! Amigos!"

Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the President of the Republic, issued a decree on June 30 from Tarlac ordering the revolutionaries to grant the survivors safe conduct. "Aguinaldo's decree was one of friendship. It is the first expression of such friendship of the Philippines for Spain after the Philippine Revolution. His decree recognized the bravery and gallantry of the Filipino and Spanish protagonists in Baler and their loyalty to their respective nations," said Viana.

The Spanish contingent left Manila on July 20, 1899, reaching Barcelona, Spain, on Sept. 1, that year. The Los Ultimos de Filipinas, as how they were called, were received as heroes.

Republic Act 9187, sponsored by Sen. Edgardo Angara, a descendant of one of the revolutionaries, declared June 30 the Filipino-Spanish Friendship Day.

The siege and the friendship day that evolved from it were the links that Valbuena now finds in Aurora. He is the great grandson of Cpl. Jesus Garcia Quijano, the first to be wounded in the siege.

"Baler is a universal symbol of this very human story," he said, noting that the event tells of human sacrifice and of the Filipinos' respect for life.

Bidon said he was "emotionally touched" by his encounter with the descendants of revolutionaries whom his great grandfather, Rogelio Vigil de Quinones, fought.

Sensitivity program for soldiers held

CITY OF CALAPAN—To minimize, if not totally eliminate, human rights violations committed by soldiers, the Pantribung Samahan sa Kanlurang Mindoro (Pasakami) held a three-day cultural sensitivity program for officers and members of the 80th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Elmer Quiros.

Juanito Lumawig, Pasakami chair, said the activity was held on June 24 in Abra de Ilog, June 26 in Sablayan, and June 27 in San Jose, all in Occidental Mindoro.

Pasakami is a province-wide Mangyan network of seven tribes in about 300 communities. Each community is composed of about 300 individuals.

The program is a response to the assessment made by the Pasakami on June 16 which noted that violations by the 16th Infantry Battalion were committed not by top-ranking officials but by those in the lower ranks.

"Violations included harassment, tactical interrogations under threat of guns, beating ... which are traumatic, like in the case of the Blanco (a Mangyan family) massacre and the incident where the Taubuhid Mangyan in Barangay Poypoy was caught in an encounter," said Fr. Rod Salazar, coordinator of the Mangyan Mission-Occidental Mindoro.

Lumawig said that the Mangyans are against war.

"We're caught in the crossfire. Let's respect the natives' rights, culture and sacred places," he said.

The Pasakami head is looking forward to signing an agreement with the military on July 10 in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, which will also be participated by Col. Ralph Villanueva, commanding officer of the 20th Infantry Brigade, and Occ. Mindoro Gov. Nene Sato.

"This hopes to correct the lapses during the Sept 6, 2003 agreement where provisions were too general to be observed," Salazar said.

"We would also like to talk with the CPP-NPA-NDF regarding the agreement," Lumawig said.

He thanked their support groups, which include the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, Mangyan Mission and some local government officials. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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NLP president and CEO Yoshinobu Kimura points out that NLP is fully compliant with the regulations of the Insurance Commission in the allocation of legal policy reserves to meet claims by policy holders in the future.

As of May 31, 2005, Nippon Life Philippines' total assets are already at PhP 2.4-B in capital, plus additional paid in capital of PhP 1-B, making it one of the bigger life insurance companies in the Philippines.

It also has over PhP 632.5 million in legal reserves plus capital reserves of over PhP 200 million for a total of PhP 800 million in reserves based on its 2004 financial statements as audited by Joaquin Cunanan and Co. This represents an over 50% increase from 2003.

Nippon Life Philippines, incorporated in 1997, has a total of 15 branches throughout the country.

It is an affiliate of Nippon Life Japan, which has been ranked by Fortune Magazine as the world's largest mutual life insurance company.

Globally-affiliated Nippon Life Philippines is proud to announce that it has 7 qualifying members and 1 life member attending the 2005 Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

NLP President and CEO Yoshinobu Kimura hailed the 8 delegates for excellence in sales and exceeding the company's expectations.

MDRT membership is an exclusive honor that is achieved only by 6% percent of all life insurance and financial services advisors worldwide.

"In line with our thrust to train and develop world class professional agents, I am proud to say those who have qualified to the MDRT deserve to be called our MVPs – Most Valuable Performers," Said Kimura during the send off party for the delegates.

"As a result of your MVP achievement in the previous year, you have been rewarded with a very unique if not enviable opportunity to learn, to interact with the best and share your own experiences with your fellow agents," he added.

The contingent, led by its Vice President for Special Market, Josie Lee, joins the world's elite life insurance selling professionals in a 3-day convention that features the best motivational speakers and industry experts who will talk about relevant topics and issues.

The Nippon Life agents attending this very prestigious gathering are Elizabeth Tiu of RE Insurance, Special Market, Geny Sia Fangre of Binondo Special Market, Rosa To Uy of Binondo Special Market, Jaydee Ong of the Cebu Branch, Pacita Tan of Milestone Insurance, Special Market, Edison Gatioan of the Banawe Branch, Bella Co of Milestone Insurance, Special Market and Nenette Alano of the Salcedo Branch as Life Member.

Founded in 1927, MDRT provides its members with resources to improve their technical knowledge, sales and client service while maintaining a culture of high ethical standards.

The 2005 MDRT is comprised of 29,652 qualifiers who reside in 76 nations and territories, representing about 472 companies.

This year's MDRT convention theme, "SYNERGIZE", symbolizes the energy that is created when all of the meeting's components — motivational stories, educational sessions, experienced colleagues, networking opportunities — come together.

It is this experience that keeps thousands of empowered MDRT members returning each year, ready to share their success stories and forging stronger professional ties.

NLP Pres. Kimura said he is confident the MDRT meeting will "energize and motivate the qualifiers to achieve more in the second half of the year!"

Nippon Life Philippines' brand new product for Filipino families is called WHALE which stands for Whole life with Anticipated Lifetime Endowments.

NLP President and CEO Yoshinobu Kimura says **WHALE** is "proof of our Company's commitment to develop products attuned to the needs of the high-end Filipino consumer.

"The upscale market has always been the prime target of Nippon Life Philippines since we began operations in 1997," Kimura says.

"Through **WHALE,** we are able to answer the need of Filipino families for maximum return on their investment and guaranteed cash benefits while they are still alive."

NLP agents are reporting a warm response from prospective policyholders to the program owing to what they described as **WHALE**'s "timely and responsive package of benefits attuned to the aspirations of its target market."

Clients are provided with a lot of flexibility since **WHALE** is available in either peso or dollar, and payable in 5 or 10 years. **WHALE** provides the policy holder lifetime protection.

From the 5th year onwards, the plan provides guaranteed cash endowments equal to 10% of the sum assured every 3 years for as long as the policyholder is alive.

Should the policyholder pass away, the Nippon Life guarantees to pay 150% of the sum assured to the beneficiaries of the policy holder.

On top of all this, **WHALE** earns dividends that can be turned to cash, used to buy additional coverage or left with the company to earn more interest.

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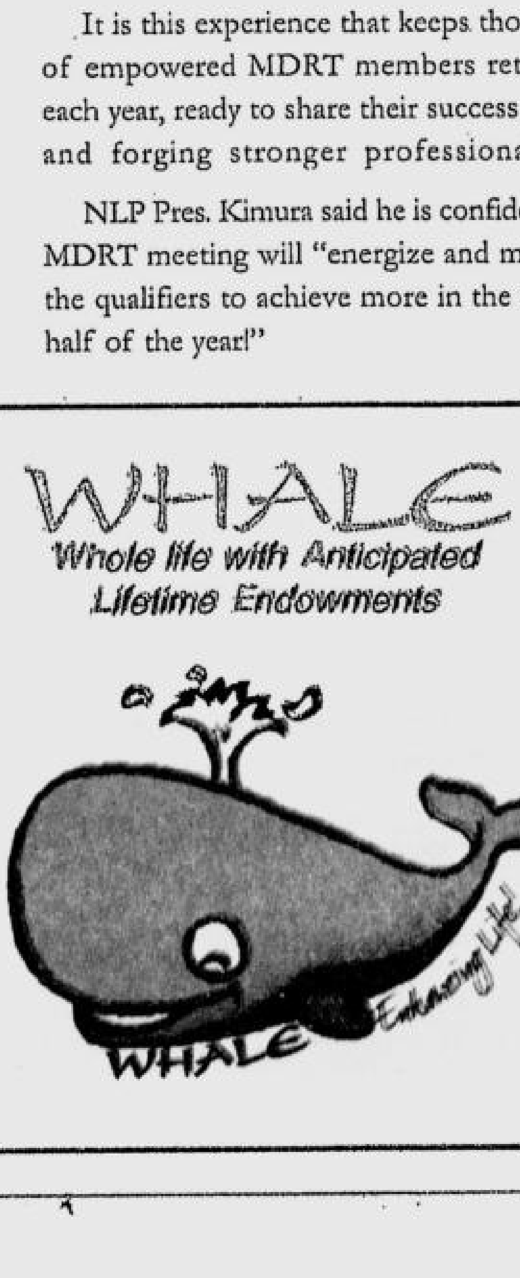

Crisis options boil down to how GMA will go

From page A1

has doggedly defied calls from her opponents to step down even as they warn they would press on with their resignation demand with street protests.

Of the three possible routes to avoid a national political catastrophe, impeachment is open; resignation is unlikely in the immediate term; and massive people power is an element that is yet to materialize. The success of the resignation call depends on the third element—mass mobilization to put pressure on the President to step down.

To answer the question how Ms Arroyo will go requires examination of whether there exists today a constituency from which to stage mass protests on the scale of those that propelled People Power I and II.

On the basis of the turnouts during the rally on Labor Day; protest action during the disclosure of the tapes by Samuel Ong, former NBI deputy director, at San Carlos seminary; the march on the eve of Independence Day celebrations; and the rally in Makati last weekend, that constituency is nowhere in sight.

Although Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay initiated the Makati rally last week, no more than 10,000 (according to police estimates) showed up at the rally, which was more successful in tying up traffic and putting business at a standstill.

No snowballing

On the basis of visual evidence, it is hard to conclude that the GMA-resign movement is snowballing.

Any momentum that the protests may have gained from the fuel of the "jueteng" scandal and the disclosure of the tapes of alleged election rigging by the President appeared to have been set back by the Supreme Court's temporary restraining order on the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law.

Antigovernment forces had expected the immediate implementation of the law to drive up prices of goods and services, causing widespread public distress and fueling public unrest.

The court's intervention was entirely unexpected and it is pointless to discuss what motivated the court to issue the restraining order or whether the intervention was prompted by concern over the consequences of the new taxes to maintaining public order.

The established and undeniable fact is that the beneficiary of the TRO is the Arroyo administration as it was given temporary relief from pressure from the streets.

The timing of the issuance of the court order seems to be coincidental to the heightening of the crisis, and the irony must not be lost that the TRO came as a consequence of the opposition's initiative to bring a case in court to nullify the law. It was a petition that backfired.

SWS survey

Going back to the issue of whether there exists a constituency from which to mount a massive street movement to force the President to step down, we may be aided by referring to the June 28-30 opinion survey of Social Weather Stations in Metro Manila amid the escalation of the street protests following the disclosure of the tapes.

A scientifically conducted poll is a more reliable index of the public mood than impressionistic evidence, for example, turnouts at protest rallies, which have to be determined whether the crowd was trucked in by partisans or whether participation was spontaneous and voluntary.

The SWS poll, conducted through telephone interviews, provides the most current indication of the volatile public mood over the series of scandals that have rocked the administration.

The poll found that the President's net trust rating was negative 31 percent, an improvement over the negative 33 percent she received in the SWS nationwide survey more than a month ago. It is of small consolation to the President to know that her trust rating had stopped falling.

There were other aspects of the survey that have to be considered to draw a more balanced picture.

These include the finding that 59 percent of respondents believed that Ms Arroyo was instructing the election commissioner—whom she had admitted she had talked to in the taped telephone conversation—to rig the election results. Only 20 percent believed Ms Arroyo was protecting her vote.

Twenty percent said the controversy should be closed to make way for the nation to move on to the task of governing, and 77 percent said something should be done to determine responsibility.

'Find the truth'

When the 77 percent were asked what they wanted done, 26 percent (the highest number) said they wanted more investigation or "find the truth," and 18 percent (the second highest) said they wanted Ms Arroyo to resign.

This result suggests that there were more people (26 percent) who were not committed to the resignation call or who may be undecided than those committed (18 percent).

Also significant is the finding that 13 percent wanted Ms Arroyo impeached and only 7 percent wanted a snap election. Not to be ignored is the finding that only two respondents (in a field of 526) wanted people power.

The findings suggest that not one mode of removing the President from office has received overwhelming endorsement from the poll and that the public has still an open mind on options.

The overall picture of the public mood seems to be that the mass constituency from which to mount a big push for resignation does not exist.

Those pushing for it face the formidable task of stirring up widespread public outrage. They have to overcome apparent indifference to or fatigue of another people power.

Joker breaks silence at last, berates opposition, Reds

From page A1

was the prosecutor par excellence, building his case brick by solid brick of legal logic, not simply on the evidence provided by whistle-blowers.

But when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was engulfed in a wiretapping controversy, what had been regarded as the voice of reason was nowhere to be heard.

Yesterday, Joker Arroyo finally broke his silence—some say his fence-sitting days—on "Gloriagate."

It took a statement from the communist-led National Democratic Front to jog the feisty, gray-haired senator to his usual passionate indignation.

The 72-year-old Aquino had declared the Constitution as the way out of the current political turmoil sparked by Ms Arroyo's confession that hers was the voice in the wiretap that her opponents said was evidence of last year's vote-rigging.

Hypocrisy

The NDF accused Aquino of "simple hypocrisy for invoking strict adherence to the constitutional means when she herself benefited from such deviation from the Constitution" when she came to power as a result of Edsa I.

What provoked Senator Arroyo was the NDF's announcement that the communist New People's Army was intensifying "tactical offensives" in the countryside in support of mass actions in Manila by the opposition and its call for the formation of a council that would choose the next government.

"In fine, the opposition and its allies are not content with being the accuser of the President, they also like to anoint her successor and determine the process of his anointment," the senator said in a statement.

"They would like to write their own ticket to the presidency without any mandate from the people as they preempt the processes mandated by the Constitution."

Ingrates

Arroyo practically called the NDF members a bunch of ingrates for forgetting they had boycotted Edsa I and yet had been the first beneficiaries of Aquino's amnesty grant after she became President.

Addressing opposition concerns it did not have the numbers to try Ms Arroyo, the senator pointed out the minority was able to set the Estrada impeachment process in motion against all odds.

Arroyo also said the minority last week was able to overcome the majority in Congress and play the controversial wiretap.

Apologist?

"The empirical evidence shows that the House is capable of being independent when it matters most," said Arroyo.

The blast from Arroyo was his first since he put a close to the Jose Pidal scandal 18 months ago, prompting accusations he had become an administration apologist. As chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, he said then the opposition did not have the evidence to support its allegation that the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, who is not a relative, had maintained a P270-million laundering operation to support her campaign.

Explaining why he thought the Chief Executive's mea culpa on June 27 wasn't revealing enough, the senator said Ms Arroyo obviously did not want to "provide the rope with her own impeachment."

If Ms Arroyo is kicked out of Malacañang, the 78-year-old senator said the country would be faced with the "horrid spectacle of having two Presidents both in jail." Estrada has been under house arrest on plunder charges.

"Let us not jeopardize our future by devaluing the lessons of our political past," said Arroyo. "Our people, given the facts, are an estimable lot who use reason and respond to rhetoric with correct judgement."

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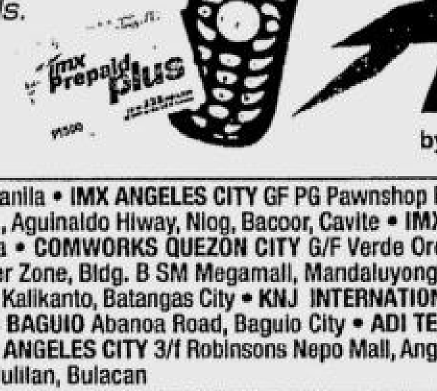

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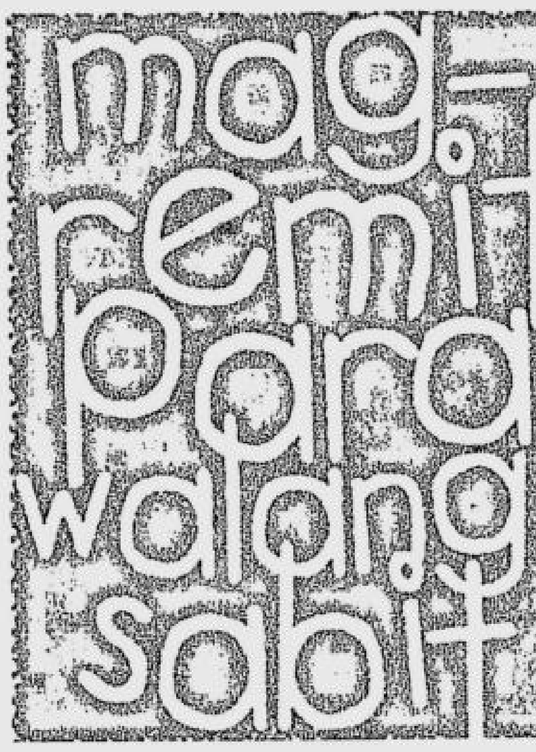

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ay hindi nag-remit nang tama.

Dahil ang hindi pag-remit nang tama

ay paglabag sa batas.

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Countdown ...

From page A1

ment to freedom and democracy. And as we turn 20 and move forward, so do we continue our mission of upholding truthful and honest journalism," she said.

Commitment

Prieto-Romualdez reaffirmed the newspaper's commitment to bring balanced news and fearless journalism. "On behalf of the management and staff of the INQUIRER, I'd like to renew our commitment to give you a news source you can trust," she said.

Some 5,000 people attended the activities at Glorietta 4, according to Donald Lim, PDI vice president for marketing.

"Over the years, we've gotten to know the activities people enjoy. The INQUIRER wanted to share the celebration with them," Lim said.

The celebration started with a 10:30 a.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Jerry M. Orbos. This was followed by the launch of the INQUIRER air blimp featuring the anniversary theme, "The Power of Knowing," and the much-awaited opening of the different booths.

Booths

Easily the most popular booth was the PDI main section/IPI/INQ7.net where people posed beside a huge Guyito, the INQUIRER's mascot, for a free souvenir picture. Surprise! When the print came out, it was an A-3 size print-out of the INQUIRER front page with their pictures in the center and above the fold.

A reading lounge area featured INQUIRER-published books, three laptops featuring inquirer.com.ph and Inq7.net websites and the corporate audio-visual presentation.

Over at the Lifestyle/Entertainment/2bU/Super/Just Shop booth, TV host and Just Shop editor Jenni Epperson gave free fashion and beauty tips to a long queue of mostly women.

Popular questions were: "Where's the best place to get a white T-shirt? (Answer: If you're tiny, Rustan's children's section; if you're normal size, Bench); Where's the best place to buy earrings? (Answer: CMG and Happy David at Rustan's) Ms Jenni, where did you have your hair cut? (Answer: Henri Calayag, H salon)."

Women patiently lined up for almost an hour waiting for their turn for a free makeup session with Jigs Mayuga of Shu Uemura, or the helpful girls over at Shiseido or perhaps a hair scan at Kerastase.

Over at Libre's booth, Madame Vangie was reading Tarot cards for anxious Pinoys.

"Do you see the President finishing her term?" someone impatient had to ask, jumping the queue.

"You'll have to line up and wait for your turn," one of the INQUIRER staff members said. People waited 30 minutes in line for a five-minute reading—for free.

Hopefuls

Over at the InqTV booth, newsreader wannabes lined up for a free screen test. Hopeful A stood in front of a camera, was told to face a little to the left, cued to get ready, while an InqTV crew held up spiels for her to read. Ready? Ready? She held the microphone like a pro and read the spiel: *"Ano'ng balita? Ako po si* A, *ang inyong kabalitaan at ito ang* Inquirer TV."

The screen test was fed straight to a computer, then burned on a disc and given to Hopeful A to take home—again for free.

At the Business/Job Market/People at Work/Sunday INQUIRER Magazine booth, there were pigeon holes for CVs and free career consultations. Quite a few asked about call center positions and overseas jobs.

Over at the Junior INQUIRER booth, there was face painting, there were kids writing their thoughts on a graffiti wall, while the younger ones painted Guyito "trace the dots" sketches.

Their parents played basketball over at the Sports/Inquirer Golf Magazine/ INQUIRER Badminton Magazine/Hoops booth. Top score was 114 shots in 60 seconds. If anyone scored 30 and over, he/she got a free INQUIRER 20th anniversary pin.

New jingle

INQUIRER editors were on hand to explain how the newspaper is put out and to answer questions about their sections.

The new INQUIRER jingle was also launched. The catchy tune was played the whole day and culminated in a "Sing the INQUIRER jingle" contest.

Twenty fiberglass sculptures of Guyito were also on display near the stage. Done by noted sculptor Juan Sajid Imao, they will be painted over by 20 artists who include Malang, Bencab, Kidlat Tahimik, Buds Convocar, Lydia Velasco, Soler, Fernando Sena, SteveSantos, Bing Siochi, Caña, Ernesto Patricio, Roel Obemio, Romeo Forbes, Anton Balao, Bin Samonte, Jef Samonte, Rex Tatlonghari, Tres Roman, Jack Salud and Wilfredo Nolasco Offemaria Jr.

The painted sculptures will be unveiled on Dec. 5 and donated to 20 selected cities and schools.

It was a truly memorable launch with people coming away with freebies and prizes or simply enjoying the performances of bands and musical stars who included Regine Velasquez, Ai-Ai de las Alas, Parokya ni Edgar, Nyoy Volante and Mannos, Out of the Box, True Faith, The Company, Stringskin, Thor and Keystone.

Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds
Pag-IBIG FUND
Series 2001-1

Congratulations to the seven lucky winners!

Seven Pag-IBIG Housing Bond holders won house and lot packages worth ₱ 650,000.00 each during the seventh raffle draw held at the Multi-Purpose Room of the Pag-IBIG Fund, 6th floor Atrium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City last June 10, 2005.

7th Raffle Draw

WINNERS OF THE REGULAR RAFFLE DRAW:

	WINNING RAFFLE NUMBER	NAME OF BONDHOLDER
1	0 5 6 5 4 7	SENEDRIN, WILFREDO SARMIENTO
2	5 6 4 7 4 3	CENTENNIAL GUARANTEE ASS. CORP.

WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL RAFFLE DRAW:

	WINNING RAFFLE NUMBER	
1	0 8 9 7 1 5	AOCEDE, ISIDRO JR. ALMIRAÑEZ
2	0 3 0 7 5 0	GONZALEZ, ALEJANDRO MANGUNE
3	1 0 0 2 8 6	PARAGAS, FEDERICO MENDEZ
4	1 2 7 0 2 6	TAPALES, YOLANDA LIM
5	1 4 5 7 5 6	DE LEON, MARIBETH ABRIL

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BOMB IN CAR

Mother, 2 children hurt in blast

By DJ Yap

THE WIDOW and two children of oil trader Peter Dy, who was killed last year by a bomb planted under his car, narrowly escaped the same fate yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Adelfa Aguirre, 55, Patrick Dy, 31, and Pamela Dy, 21, were on board a Nissan Patrol cruising southbound along Edsa, in front of SM North Annex, when a bomb of unknown type exploded in the rear of the vehicle, police said.

The victims suffered burns and were rushed to the Capitol Medical Center where they were declared out of danger by early afternoon, said Central Police District (CPD) director Nicasio Radovan Jr.

The blaze that resulted from the blast was so huge, it blackened a light post on the center island, an eyewitness said.

The vehicle itself was almost totally burned. Only the hood was left intact.

Investigators said Aguirre and the two Dys had just paid a visit to their late patriarch at the Eternal Gardens in Balintawak when the incident occurred at about 10:30 a.m.

They could not immediately say what type of explosive was used, pending the results of the investigation by the CPD bomb unit.

They said they were studying possible links to Dy's killing in April 2004 when a powerful explosive tore through the front part of Dy's Mitsubishi Pajero in Valenzuela City.

The explosion killed Dy and hurt his driver and a bystander.

A month before the incident, one of Dy's children was abducted and later released for still unknown reasons.

In yesterday's incident, CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit chief Procopio Lipana said his men were looking into conflict within the family and the victims' personal affairs as possible angles.

Police found several bundles of mostly burnt P1,000 bills inside the victims' vehicle.

Radovan said they were still investigating what the money, which could amount to more than P100,000, was for.

He said he has instructed his men to coordinate with Valenzuela police in the investigation.

Chief Insp. Deogracias Valera of the Valenzuela police said Dy's killing had not been solved.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Vidal Querol said the blast was not part of a destabilization or terrorist plot.

He said it could be related to business.

Aguirre and Patrick are in business, while Pamela is a student at De La Salle University, police said.

With Luige A. del Puerto

Filipinos fattening their piggy banks

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FEELING that the economy has not improved, majority of Filipinos choose to save their extra cash, if any, a recent survey said.

Asked where their spare cash usually went, 63 percent of about 500 Filipino respondents said part of their extra money went to savings, the survey by research firm AC Nielsen said.

The figure was the highest among respondents from 13 Asia-Pacific countries included in the study. Taiwan was a close second with a 60-percent rating.

In New Zealand, where six of every 10 residents felt that it was currently a good time to buy things, only 33 percent saved their excess cash.

Apart from savings, 43 percent of Filipino respondents said they also used part of their extra money to pay off debt.

In the survey from April 11 to May 10, respondents were asked where they spent leftover money after buying the basic necessities, information technology systems director Elena van Tooren said.

Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer from a list.

The survey was conducted over the Internet. In the country, 70 percent of the respondents were from Metro Manila, Van Tooren added.

For the Philippines, the margin of error was plus or minus 4.4 percent.

Accident report 'kills' wrong victim

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT WAS a "deadly" mistake.

The Marikina City Traffic Enforcement Group (TEG) reported that Encarnacion Quitan, 52, was killed when a jeepney slammed into two houses in the city on Saturday.

Lost brakes

Quitan was one of 10 passengers of the jeepney, which reportedly lost its brakes while traveling along A. Bonifacio Avenue in Barangay Barangka at about 10 a.m.

The jeepney first hit an FX taxi before going off the road and into two houses.

A woman was confirmed killed in the incident. The TEG immediately reported that it was Quitan.

Members of media picked up the report, and yesterday Quitan was "dead" in many newspaper articles (the INQUIRER not included).

However, Quitan is still alive and undergoing treatment at the Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center, TEG investigation chief SPO4 Felipe Evangelista clarifed yesterday.

He identified the real fatality as Rosa Cosculla, 46.

Evangelista said they had learned of the mistake late Saturday and tried to correct it but it was too late: the wrong report had already reached the presses.

Bad hair day, chatting get 5 traffic men into trouble

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IF YOU think only errant motorists deal with citation tickets, read this.

Two traffic enforcers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) have been terminated and three others are facing dismissal after they got one too many tickets for various offenses.

The violation receipts were issued to the enforcers by members of MMDA monitoring teams who go around Metro Manila checking on the agency's men.

"We never stop monitoring our traffic enforcers," said Antonio Pagulayan, head of the agency's Roadside Traffic Arbitration and Personnel Inspection and Monitoring Group.

He said the team constantly inspected the appearance and performance of each MMDA enforcer, and also informed them of the agency's policies and regulations.

Errant enforcers are cited and given violation receipts.

This month, five traffic officers gathered enough tickets to face termination.

Based on records of Pagulayan's office, traffic enforcers Jonathan Jamir and Ramon Borres were terminated on June 30, upon the monitoring and inspectorate office's recommendation.

Jamir had been cited for five violations since September 2004, including wearing his hair too long, failing to bring his raincoat, failing to wear his traffic vest, and chatting while completing his shift. Last April, Jamir was suspended for one week for dishonesty.

In the same period, Borres had also been issued violation receipts for leaving his post and malingering or loitering.

Their fellow enforcers Wilson Domingo, Jessico Gonzales and Roberto Panti have been recommended for termination for violations within nine months, including smoking while on duty, chatting and grave misconduct.

NBI seizes pirated software

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) seized P2 million worth of pirated computer software in a raid in Makati City last week.

The NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) raided Wireless Technology Solutions Inc. on the third floor of ITC Building on Gil Puyat Avenue and seized fake AutoDesk software and computers.

The local distributors of AutoDesk products sought the help of the bureau after learning that reproduced copies of their software have been proliferating in the market. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

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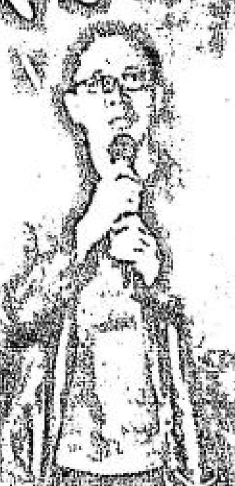
PLDT, READY TO ROCK

"Beat the Stretch! Hit net station gains! Connect DSL subs!" They chant together, their voices rising in unison. More than 600 PLDT employees representing key business zones converged at the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza recently for a day of motivational talks, sharing of best business practices, recognition of outstanding performances and commitment to further the business gains made in 2005. Dubbed as PLDT ROCKS (HUDDLE SERIES LIVE!), it was one unforgettable experience for PLDT RBG!



Boy Martirez, Consumer Group Head, warms up the troops.

PLDT RBG ROCKS

Butch Jimenez, SVP-Retail Business Group Head, with raised arms and clenched fist, rallies the Retail Business Group to greater heights!

RATSADA SA SALES!

Becky de Guzman, VP-Retail Sales and Distribution, announces top sales performers and unveils incentive packages.

Celebrity guest motivator, Tessie Tomas in her many personas as Meann Kiss and Melanie Marquez, fires up the audience.

OVER SA INNOVATIONS!

Don Rax (top photo), Chief Operations Advisor and George Lim (below), SVP-Network Services Head, give PLDT rockers a peek into the future of technology.

CHAMPION SA MGA SUBSCRIBERS!

BEST PRACTICES

Sharing of best business practices by PLDT District Heads is one of the highlights of the ROCK HUDDLE SERIES.

KWELA SA MGA PROMOTION AT ADVERTISEMENTS!

Rocker of the Marketing World, Tony Valdez, VP-Retail Marketing, unveils the marketing roadmap that will annihilate competition.

Raul Alvarez, AVP for Marketing Services, shares his expertise on how to package local promotions.

SOBRANG GALING NG SALES FORCE!

OVERALL TOP REVENUE PERFORMERS

3rd Placer
GMM South, Makati Zone

2nd Placer
GMM South, Parañaque Business Zone

1st Placer
GMM South, San Pedro Business Zone

PLDT
BEAT THE STRETCH

Hands up to victory! Celebrity guest motivator Tessie Tomas [illegible] of PLDT RBG affirm their commitment [illegible]

Mindanao "Singkil Rock Dance" adjudged the best production number.

Abangan Girl, Side A, Nina, Jose & Wally, Noel Oñar and [illegible] PLDT's Retail Business Group [illegible]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PLDT, READY TO ROCK

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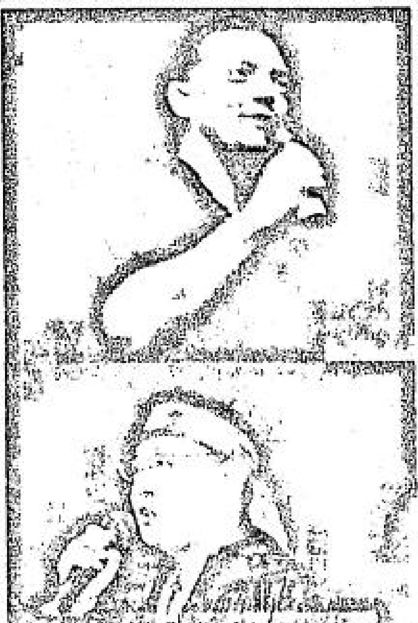
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3rd Place
GMM South, Makati Zone

2nd Place
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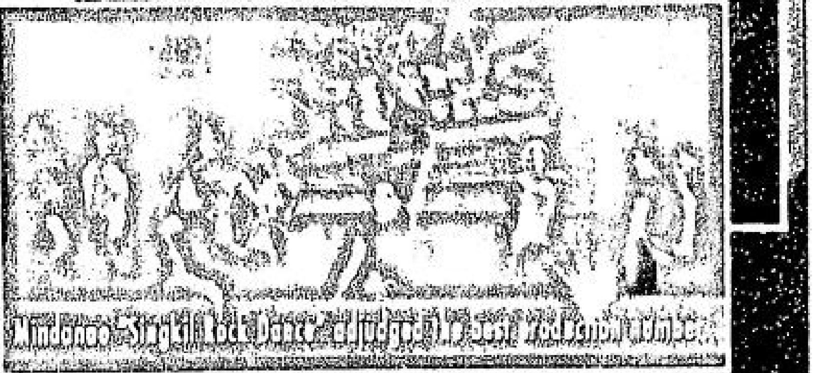
1st Place
GMM South, San Pedro Business Zone

BEAT THE STRETCH
Hands up for victory! Celebrity guest motivator Tessie Tomas as rock queen [illegible] raises the hands of PLDT RBG after the commitment rites.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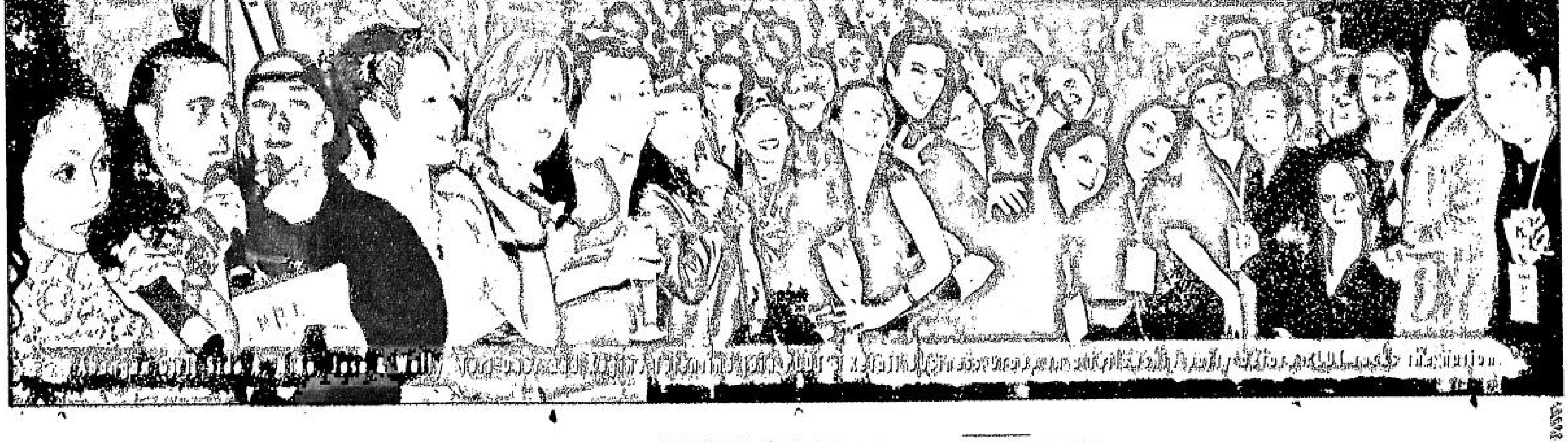
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Beermen secure 2-0 lead on Danny I shot

TALK 'N TEXT playmaker Jimmy Alapag finds his path to the basket cut off by the defense of San Miguel Beer counterpart Olsen Racela in last night's encounter. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By June Navarro

DANNY Ildefonso's baseline drive with six seconds remaining carried San Miguel Beer to an 81-79 come-from-behind win over Talk 'N Text that gave the Beermen a commanding 2-0 lead in the PBA Fiesta Conference Finals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

With time winding down, Ildefonso scooted past Asi Taulava and got away with a layup to cap a tremendous San Miguel Beer rally from 19 points down.

"It was a great escape," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico, whose Beermen inched closer to wrapping up the best-of-seven series and capturing their 17th franchise crown.

"Credit should go to the players," added Uichico. "They still played with a lot of heart and pride despite that huge deficit."

The Phone Pals had a chance to send the game into overtime when Victor Pablo fetched a foul from Nic Belasco with 1.9 ticks left.

But Pablo bungled both free throws and Taulava missed a putback on the second miss to doom the Phone Pals.

Beerman Olsen Racela's first three-pointer of the night tied the count at 79 and the Phone Pals went scoreless in the next minute and a half as Willie Miller, Jerald Honeycutt and Taulava groped for the basket.

Before the game-winning drive, Ildefonso had regained possession for SMB with a steal off Miller, who grabbed the rebound with 23 seconds to go.

Making most of their attempts in the first half, the Phone Pals pulled away from a slim 19-15 lead with their shooters connecting from afar.

The Phone Pals sank 63 percent of their attempts from the perimeter and went seven of 17 from three-point range with Pablo and Honeycutt drilling two triples each.

Pablo's back-to-back triples gave the Phone Pals their biggest lead, a 19-point bubble at 47-28, before Dondon Hontiveros converted his charities to peg the halftime count at 47-30.

Although they outrebounded the Phone Pals, 24-19, before the intermission, the Beermen completely struggled from the field, missing 25 of their 36 attempts. They also committed 14 turnovers, which the Phone Pals transformed into 22 points.

But the Beermen slowly fought back behind Ace Custis, Dorian Peña and Racela, who first trimmed the deficit to 54-60 in the waning minutes of the third quarter.

Meanwhile, the FedEx Express secured the top pick for the 2005-2006 PBA rookie draft after winning the lottery over the Sta. Lucia Realtors. The draft is set Aug. 15 at the Sta. Lucia Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL 81—Ildefonso 16, Custis 16, Belasco 12, Hontiveros 11, Peña 10, Selgle 8, Racela 7, Lopez 1, Adriano 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 79—Pablo 17, Honeycutt 17, Taulava 11, Telan 11, Miller 6, Camaso 5, Belano 4, Ravena 3, Alapag 3, Carey 2. De Ocampo 0.

Quarters: 15-19, 30-47, 58-67, 81-79

GAME WEDNESDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)

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3 Pinoys still unscathed in World Pool; jittery Bata stumbles again

MANALO

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan—Filipinos Marlon Manalo, Gandy Valle and Dennis Orcollo remained undefeated even as Efren "Bata" Reyes continued to struggle in his worst start ever in the World Pool Championship at the Kaohsiung Business Exhibition Center here.

Marlon Manalo overcame a bum stomach to beat Jeremy Jones of the United States, 5-3, then followed it up with a 5-1 thrashing of Wang Hua-fong of Chinese Taipei late Saturday evening.

Manalo's two victories earned him four points and the lead in Group 15. The top four players from each group will advance to the knockout phase on Wednesday.

Valle also opened his bid for the $75,000 (P4.2 million) top prize with two victories. The San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour Singapore leg winner blanked David Alcaide of Spain, 5-0, then routed Britain's Anthony Ginn, 5-1, to take the No. 1 spot in Group 11.

Orcollo likewise remained unscathed after a pair of 5–1 triumphs over Nick Van Den Berg of the Netherlands and Naoyuki Oi of Japan.

Reyes, however, still couldn't get going.

Following his defeat to local bet Kang Chin-ching, 3-5, the 1999 World Pool champion lost his next Group 4 match against Jakob Lyng of Denmark, 4-5, late Saturday.

Reyes will now be hard-pressed to win his remaining five matches to advance to the round of 64.

While Reyes faltered, defending champion Alex Pagulayan and Francisco "Django" Bustamante each recovered with wins after opening their campaigns with losses.

Pagulayan, who suffered a 4-5 setback to Rico Diks of the Netherlands, vented his ire on hapless Do Hoang Quan of Vietnam, 5-1.

Bustamante beat Russian Konstantin Stepanov, 5-3, then trounced Finn Marko Lohtander, 5-2.

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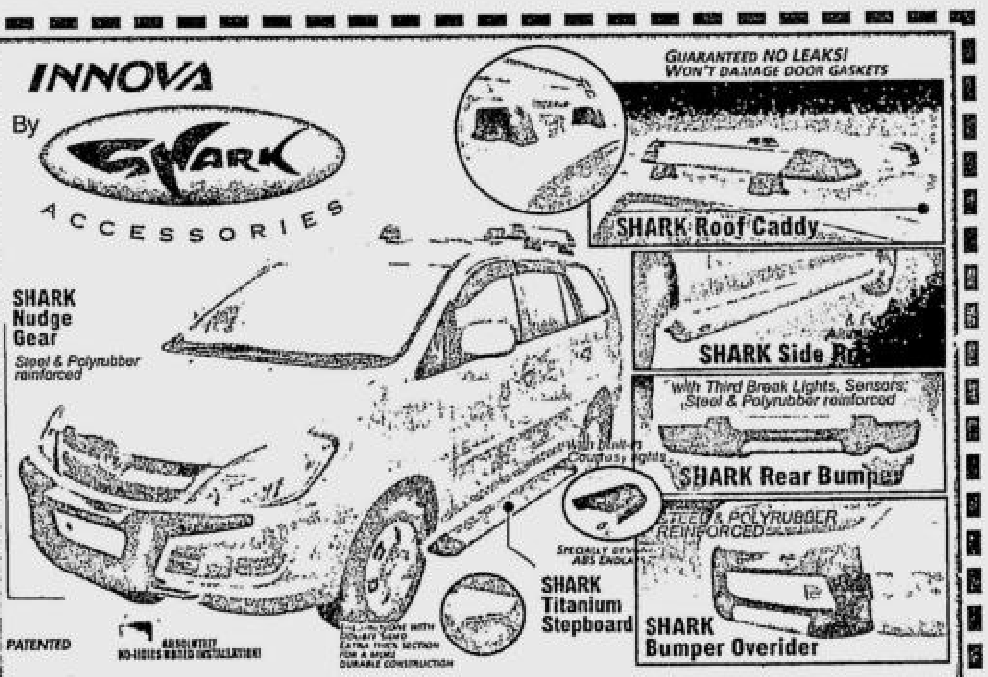

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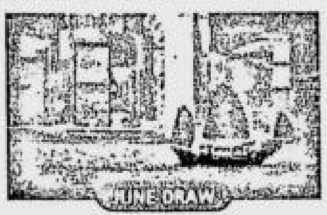

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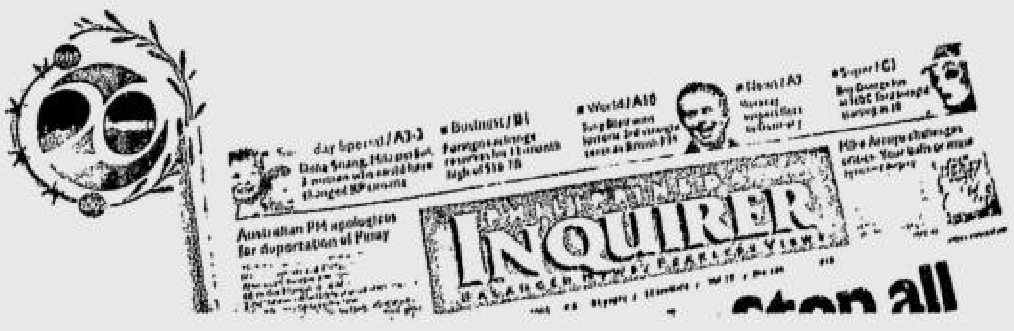

Mighty Cubans sweep Manila leg of World GP volley

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CUBA overcame a sluggish first set to down Italy, 19-25, 26-24, 25-23, 25-21, yesterday and sweep the Manila leg of the FIVB Women's Volleyball World Grand Prix at the PhilSports Arena.

Nancy Carrillo scored the last two points for the 2000 Grand Prix champion Cubans to finish off the Italians and earn 12 ranking points that assured them of a seat in the Grand Finals next month in Sendai, Japan.

It was a fitting performance for Carrillo who was named the leg's Most Valuable Player, while her team captain, Yumilka Ruiz, was the hands-down choice as most popular player.

The Cuban also pocketed the $35,000 top purse, while second-placer Netherlands, which defeated Thailand to finish with a 2-1 card, bagged the $25,000 second prize. Italy wound up third with $20,000 while winless Thailand got $15,000.

Cuba had already secured a slot in the GP next year after winning the recent Pan-American championships. The win also boosted its chances for the Grand Finals which stakes a $200,000 top prize.

Earlier, Netherlands held no punches in crushing Thailand, 25-9, 25-16, 25-22, to pick up 10 ranking points.

Like the Italians and the Cubans in the first two days, the Dutch tried out different combinations against the shorter Thais, opting to use their reserves especially in the third set where they allowed Thailand to come back from 17-21 to 20-21.

Chaine Staelens and Ingrid Visser soon took charge with powerful spikes that eventually gave the Netherlands its second win after narrowly losing to Cuba last Saturday.

Visser was adjudged best blocker, teammate Francien Huurman was chosen best spiker while Italy's Elisa Cella was named top server.

La Salle, UST begin title showdown

LA SALLE'S Michelle Carolino attacks the UST wall put up by Venus Bernal (12) and Roxanne Pimentel during their semifinal match. RYAN LIM

LA SALLE and University of Santo Tomas will try to match each other's power, timing and finesse when they begin their best-of-three showdown for the 2005 Shakey's V-League first conference crown before an expected full-house crowd at the Makati Coliseum today.

The championship showdown pits the winners of the first two conferences. The Tigresses topped last year's inaugural staging of this event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and the Lady Archers got back at the UST squad with a triumphant form in the second.

Admission is free.

"It's (the series) going to be real close," said UST coach August Sta. Maria, whose wards split their four head-to-head matches with the Lady Archers, mentored by Ramil de Jesus, this conference.

Today's doubleheader at the Makati venue, billed as "Alay ni Mayor sa Makati," is part of Mayor Jejomar Binay and his ex-mayor wife Elenita's expression of gratitude to city residents.

The title series is also backed by Accel, Mikasa, Dunkin Donuts, IBC-13, Jemah Television and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Ateneo and San Sebastian collide in their own best-of-three series for third place at 1 p.m.

Sta. Maria is expected to bank on his vaunted frontline composed of the long-limbed Roxanne Pimentel, last year's first conference MVP Mary Jean Balse, the crisp-hitting Joyce Paño and Venus Bernal.

"This is a team game, everybody must step up because this is championship time," said the soft-spoken De Jesus, who looks to the power-hitting troika of Michelle Carolino, skipper Maureen Penetrante and Desiree Hernandez to carry La Salle's assault.

Xavier, Arellano eye b'minton finals slots

THE CHASE for finals berths in the 2005 JVC Open Badminton Championships heats up beginning today with the staging of the semifinal round in the high school team championships and the corporate events at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Xavier and Arellano try to carry the form they showed in the qualifiers as they gun for the championship berths in the boys' division against Ateneo and Marcelo H. del Pilar, respectively.

Hostilities start at 10 a.m.

The opening rites will begin at 12 noon with Hideyuki Takato, president of JVC (Phils.) Inc., former first lady and Philippine Badminton Association president Amelita "Ming" Ramos, JVC (Phils.) Inc. general manager Kazue Salud and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay heading the list of VIPs gracing the event that offers a total cash prize of more than P1 million.

Spicing up the tournament is a series of all-Korean exhibition matches.

In the high school girls' category, Poveda takes on Rizal HS while Marcelo H. del Pilar battles Woodrose HS for spots in the finals that offers P10,000 to the winner.

STANDINGS	W	L
PCU	2	0
Letran	2	0
Mapua	2	0
St. Benilde	2	0
Perpetual	0	2
SSC	0	2
San Beda	0	2
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Knights, Blazers shoot for win No. 3

THE LETRAN Knights seem to have adjusted well without ace guard Ronjay Enrile.

With other senior cagers at the helm, the Knights will try to extend their winning streak to three against the San Sebastian Stags in the 81st NCAA season at 1 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Although Knights coach Louie Alas admitted he'd still prefer to have Enrile in his team, he commended the performances of his veterans led by Aaron Aban and Boyet Bautista.

The St. Benilde Blazers, last year's cellar-dwellers, will also try to sustain their surprisingly strong start against the San Beda Lions at 5 p.m.

Fresh from a 55-45 win over the University of Perpetual Altas, coach Caloy Garcia said the Blazers have a good chance of improving their record to 3-0.

"[Beating Perpetual] was a good test for us because they were the runners-up last year," noted Garcia. "But San Beda is a strong team, so we must come out with the same energy."

Expected to spark the Blazers' offense are point guard Paolo Orbeta and center Jay Sagad, who both led the team's scoring last season. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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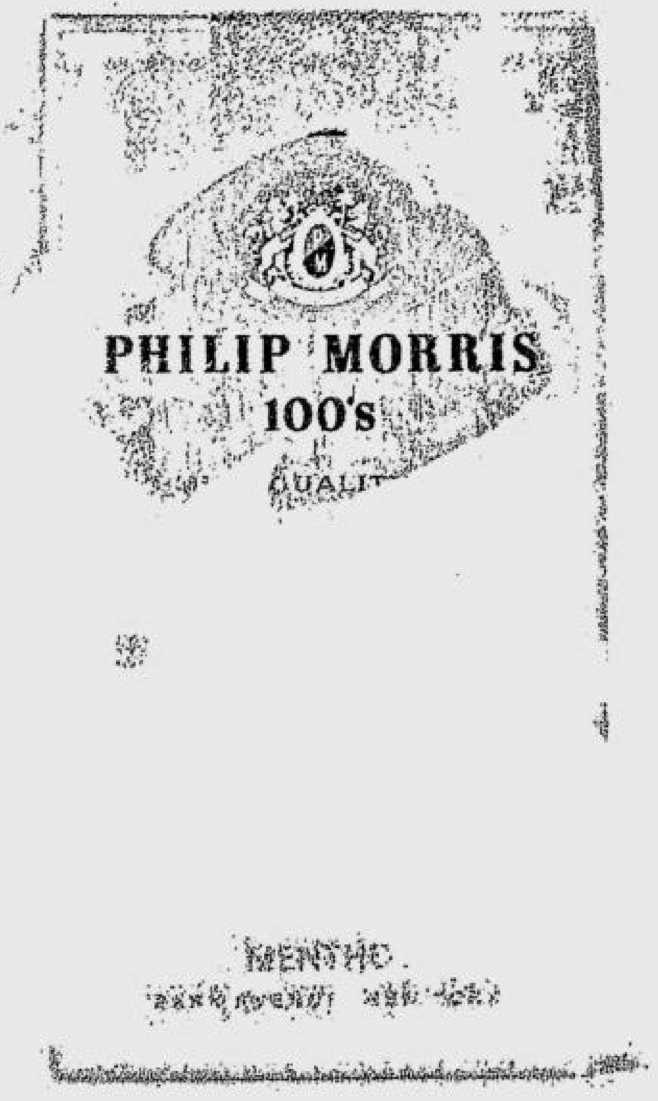

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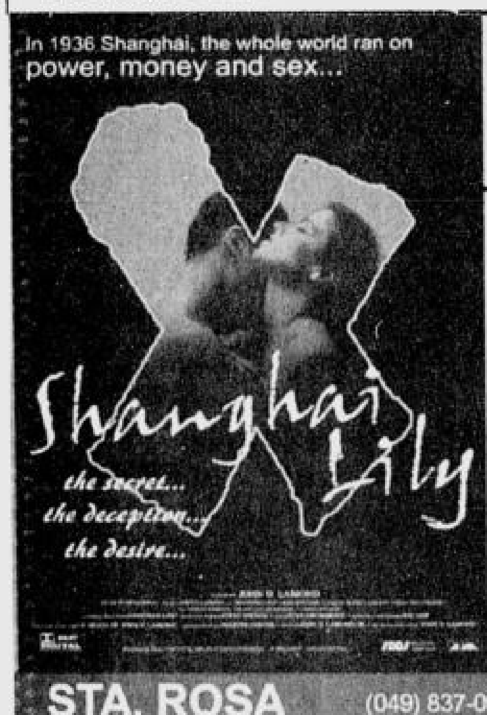
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Venus champ anew

Nips Lindsay in record Wimbledon final

VENUS Wiliams celebrates her victory.

WIMBLEDON, England—Venus Williams leaned against the wall behind the baseline for several seconds, gasping for air. At the other end of the court, Lindsay Davenport doubled over, using her racket like a cane to rest a bothersome back.

Williams had just hit a forehand to win a 25-shot exchange in the third set, the longest point in the longest Wimbledon women's final on record, and neither she nor Davenport looked particularly eager to resume play.

They did, of course, and 10 minutes later, Williams' stamina and strokes allowed her to complete a 4-6, 7-6 (4), 9-7 victory over Davenport on Saturday for her third Wimbledon championship and first Grand Slam title in nearly four years.

Barely, just barely, better than the top-ranked Davenport on this cloudy and chilly afternoon, Williams pulled off two impressive comebacks all at once:

She is the first woman in 70 years to win at the All England Club after facing a championship point, and she returned to the top of the tennis world after two years of personal and professional setbacks.

Once No. 1 in the world, then just second best in her family, Williams had won only one tournament in the last 13 months and tumbled in the rankings. At No. 14, she is Wimbledon's lowest-seeded women's champion.

"It has special meaning," Williams said. "I wasn't supposed to win."

She hadn't been past the quarterfinals at a major since losing the 2003 Wimbledon final to younger sister Serena while struggling with a torn abdominal muscle. That was just part of a long line of injuries and losses, difficulties that were easy to deal with compared to the shooting death of half-sister Yetunde in September 2003.

Davenport's been waiting 5½ years since her last major title, and she looked poised to end that drought Saturday. She won the first set—the only one Williams lost this fortnight—and served for the championship after breaking for a 6-5 lead in the second. But Williams would not go quietly, dialing up the volume of her grunts and the power of her groundstrokes to break at love for 6-6 and then claim the tiebreaker.

"I just spent so much time behind that the only time I think I was in front was when I won the match," said Williams, who had lost her past five Grand Slam finals, all to her sister. "I guess somehow I stayed in there."

Did she ever.

Little sis might be the one with the nascent acting career, but it was the elder Williams who combined with Davenport to script a 2-hour, 45-minute drama worthy of London's West End. It's a lot to live up to for Roger Federer and Andy Roddick, who meet Sunday in a rematch of the 2004 men's final.

Roddick's shirt, shorts and arms were covered in dirt and grass stains from dives and tumbles Saturday as he completed a 6-7 (6), 6-2, 7-6 (10), 7-6 (5) semifinal victory over Thomas Johansson. The match was suspended because of rain in the first set Friday, when Federer easily beat Lleyton Hewitt, and resumed at noon Saturday.

Roddick is 1-8 against Federer and has lost their last four meetings, including last year's Wimbledon final.

So does Roddick have something new in mind for Sunday's rematch at the All England Club?

"I might try to push him into a wall or something before we go out on court," Roddick said with a laugh. *AP*

DAVENPORT: Major frustration. AFP

Armstrong shows foes who's boss

NOIRMOUTIER-EN-L'ILE, France—Lance Armstrong began day one of his farewell Tour de France in familiar style on Saturday by crushing longtime rival Jan Ullrich and other leading challengers.

He leads Alexandre Vinokourov by 51 seconds, Ullrich by 66, and Ivan Basso by 84 after the fastest time trial in Tour history.

"I was hungry today," Armstrong said. "I didn't come here to ride a retirement race. I'm here to show the world I'm committed to this race."

The message was received loud and clear by almost everyone.

David Zabriskie, an American rider, beat Armstrong by two seconds in his Tour debut.

Ullrich started a minute ahead of Armstrong, but was overtaken by the six-time champion.

"The feeling of being passed by Lance is not good," the German said.

Ullrich won the Tour in 1997 while Armstrong was beating cancer, and finished runner-up five times—three to Armstrong. Ullrich entered the Tour looking leaner and fitter than for years but he failed to see imminent danger when he crashed into the back of his team car on Friday, cutting his neck near his jugular vein.

"He's arguably lucky to be in the race today," said Armstrong.

Johan Bruyneel, Armstrong's team director, expanded.

"I'm sure Jan did not wake up this morning with good sensations," Bruyneel said. *AP*

Curtis, Furyk lead Western

LEMONT, Illinois—Former British Open champion Ben Curtis rolled in a 3-footer on 18 for a birdie and a share of the lead with Jim Furyk at the Western Open on Saturday. Curtis (66) and Furyk (67) are at 12-under 201 after 54 holes. But both should keep a close eye on the scoreboard because there are plenty of people behind them—including the world's two best players. Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh may have gotten off to rough starts, but they're making up for it. Woods shot a 4-under 67 and is tied for fourth with Shaun Micheel at 206, five strokes back. Singh flirted with the course record of 63 before settling for a 6-under 65 that leaves him six strokes off the lead. Tim Herron (70) is alone in second at three strokes back. Second-round leader Chris Couch struggled to a 3-over 74, and is at 6-under 207. *AP*

Jenny, Annika crash out of Women's Match Play

GLADSTONE, New Jersey—Annika Sorenstam tumbled out of the HSBC Women's World Match Play Championship on Saturday, blowing a two-hole lead with four to play in her quarterfinal against 23-year-old Candie Kung.

The eighth-seeded Kung will face 60th-seeded Marisa Baena of Colombia in the semifinals on Sunday. Baena beat six-time major champion Karrie Webb of Australia 2 and 1.

Baena, winless in seven seasons on the tour, beat No. 21 Jennifer Rosales in 20 holes on Saturday morning, birdieing the par-5 second to win after squaring the match with birdies on Nos. 14 and 17.

In the other semifinal, 14th-seeded Wendy Ward will play No. 47 Meena Lee of South Korea. Ward beat 59th-seeded Sophie Gustafson 2 and 1, and Lee held off No. 39 Pat Hurst 1-up.

In their third-round matches on Saturday morning, Kung beat 56th-seeded AJ Eathorne 4 and 3, and Sorenstam held off playoff nemesis Rachel Hetherington 2 and 1.

"It has been an incredible week for me," Baena said. *AP*

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About time PBA weeded out incompetent refs

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE FACT that the Philippine Basketball Association has suspended the three referees who officiated Game 4 of the recent semifinal series between Talk 'N Text and Shell in the Fiesta Conference is proof that some refs are indeed not fit for the job.

Suspended were Joey Calungcaguin, who was sidelined for the rest of the ongoing best-of-seven title series between San Miguel Beer and Talk 'N Text, as well as Mario Montiel and Throngy Aldabas. Of the three, Calungcaguin committed the most glaring error by making the call that led to the disqualification of Shell import Ajani Williams late into overtime. TNT eventually won, 96-91, to enter the finals against the SMB.

Shell board representative Bobby Kanapi protested the referees' handling of the game and asked for an investigation. Said he: "We are paying millions of pesos here and yet, they (referees) are the ones deciding who are going to play in the championship. They should be investigated."

As a result, PBA commissioner Noli Eala directed Perry Martinez, the league's technical committee head, to investigate the officials. After reviewing the tapes of the game and getting the side of the three referees, Martinez concluded that the arbiters did not follow the league guidelines on officiating during the crucial stages of a game, hence the suspensions.

"I thank the PBA for their swift action on the matter," said Kanapi after being informed of the suspensions.

Methinks the suspensions were long overdue. PBA officials should have long ago wielded the big stick against the erring referees because it is their responsibility to the millions of basketball fans. If they want the league to regain public confidence and restore its once lofty place in local sports, they should do something to improve the qualify of officiating.

Most recently, I witnessed paying fans boiling mad and shouting "*luto! luto!* (fixed! fixed!)," following blatant botches by referees. Eala should not take these complaints lightly; he should order these whistle-tooters to be honest and responsible by asking them to make the calls as they see it to remove any doubt that they are on the take or under the influence of moneyed syndicate members.

* * *

MURAD ESCAPES CONVICTION? By offering to settle out of court to end the New York federal jury trial recently, glib-tongued American promoter Murad Muhammad escaped a possible conviction for "shortchanging" Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao.

"I have been cheated by people whom I trusted," said Pacquiao. "I want to recover every dollar that was stolen from me as well as help protect other fighters from being taken advantage of by Mr. Muhammad."

I am happy that justice has been served. I feel I am no longer an advocate of lost causes. I feel I have done my duty as a watchdog for pro boxing by warning the public about the pitfalls of dealing with Muhammad even though there were too few of us who cared to listen and far too many of them, including some members of the media, who are out-and-out apologists for boxing who got hooked on Muhammad.

105 Hatawan fights on tap

THE OPENING round of Roligon Mega Cockpit's Hatawan Sa Tag-Ulan 6-Cock Derby unfolds at 3 p.m. today with 105 fights on tap and Pagcor-Airport Casino Filipino as sponsor. All center bets will be squared by popular *llamadores* Gerald Vandolf Go of Sta. Ana and partners Renato Shio and Abu Centeno, who also acted as pit managers in the recent 2005 World Slasher Cup. The five-day derby—July 4, 6, 8, 11 and 13—is hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon who has put up a cash pot of P3 million for the winners. A five-door Pajero, on display at the Roligon lobby, will go to the fastest win champion. Participants who will see action on Wednesday must submit their entries tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 8512275, 8331638 or 8529812.

Five-cocker set in Pasig

SOME of the country's biggest cockfighters are vying in the Bakbakan sa Pasig 5-Cock Daytime Derby on Thursday at the Pasig Square Garden. About P500,000 in cash prizes are at stake in the derby hosted by Aba and Sam Mendoza. Submission of weights is on Wednesday only. The long list of participants include 2005 World Slasher Cup champions Matt Bitanga and J. Pineda, MCA Cocker of the Year Boy Jiao and Edgar Coronel, Del Namoco, Delfin Garcia, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Ronnie Lacsina, Danny Pe, Dr. Cangco Suave, Edmer Abella, Oca Domingo, Butchoy Olano, Peping Ricafort, Vinz Perea. Lito Orillaza and Rudy Salud. For inquiries, call 6465858 or 6465828.

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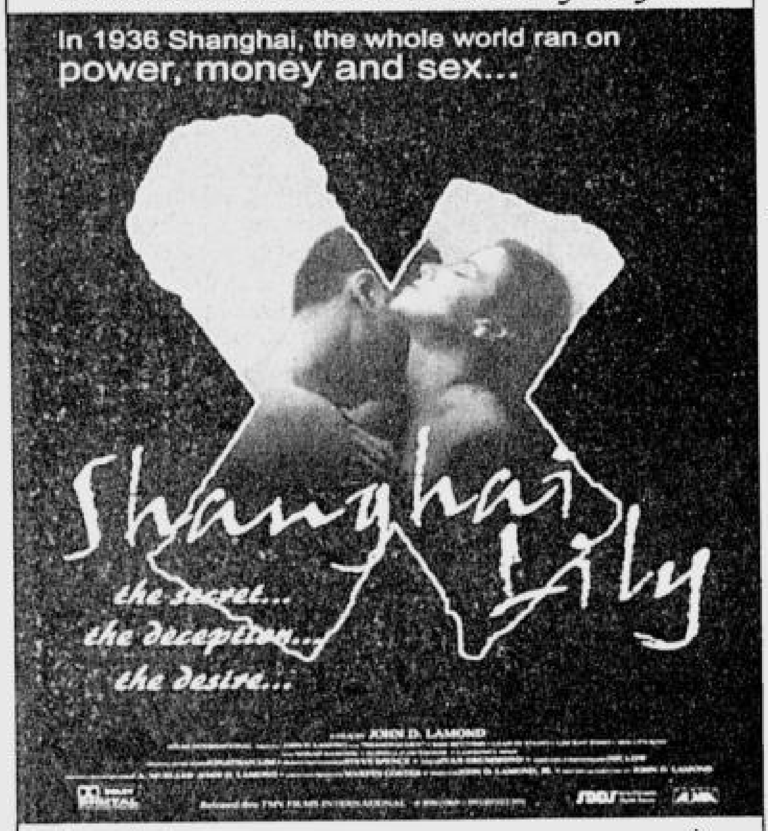
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

July 6, Wednesday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 3 7:30pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel

UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES
July 9, Sat 1pm Opening / 2pm UP vs UST Srs / 4pm FEU vs UE Srs

July 8, Fri 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 4 4:45pm Annual Awards / 7:30pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel

July 10, Sunday UAAP GAMES 10am AdU vs NU Jrs, 12pm DLSU vs ADMU Jrs, 2pm AdU vs NU Srs, 4pm DLSU vs ADMU Srs

CENTER EVENTS

SALE	*Mango Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until July 8 at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall* *Celine Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until July 31 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall*
NEW STORES	*KFC at The Food Express on Level 3 of Gateway Mall* *Menage Salon on Level 3 of Gateway Mall*

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Pumaren, Romero power Archers

THE UNWANTED pounds have obviously slowed them down but the grit, passion and sharpness of the La Salle Archers were still there.

This was evident in La Salle's masterful 83-72 win over bitter rival Ateneo in the All-Star match of the Fil Oil-Flying V Ultimate Showdown at the Araneta Coliseum last Saturday.

Nicknamed the "Bullet" during his days in the pro league, Dindo Pumaren was still a joy to watch as he dazzled the crowd and awed his defenders.

Alvin Castro was still sharp as ever, and so was former glamour boy Mikee Romero.

Pumaren started La Salle's onslaught, drilling in eight in a bristling 11-2 run that set the tone for the runaway win.

Romero took the cudgels in the second quarter for the Archers, who boosted their lead to 25-6.

The sweet-shooting Romero, who owns Harbour Centre which plays in the PBL, buried a triple and then set up a fastbreak play to break the game wide open for La Salle.

Also shining for the Archers were Dwight Lago, Dino Aldeguer and Dicky Bachmann.

Castro led La Salle with 12 points while Vince Hizon paced Ateneo with 18.

Manny Pacquiao deserves special honor

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

FOR having accepted defeat honestly, unlike his lost, desperate President in Malacañang, Manny Pacquiao is now a hero many times over to his fans.

Said reader Juan Galang: "Pacquiao has given pride and honor to our country. In these difficult times, his boxing exploits have had a cathartic effect on the sagging Filipino spirit. He did meet a superior adversary in Erik Morales, but Pacquiao has nothing to be ashamed of. He put up a courageous and gallant stand despite the deep cut over his right eye, thereby blunting the attack of Morales' manager who had called Pacquiao a quitter."

From Bacolod, Irwin N. Castellano writes back to say that Pacquiao, his hero, is human, too—just like other genuine heroes.

Pacquiao deserves genuine respect and admiration—unlike born losers who don't know how to accept defeat.

Mr. Castellano also said he guessed it right that Robert Horry would make the inbound pass and the clutch shot during the dying seconds of Game 5 of the 2005 NBA Finals. (Congratulations. You also made the right guess on that congressman from your district. *Madamo gid nga salamat.*)

* * *

Well, his fans may have not realized it, but Pacquiao has scored a greater win that, in its impact and merit, is bigger than a legit world boxing crown.

By hailing to court US promoter Murad Muhammad, whom Pacquiao perceived to have repeatedly cheated him of his deserved earnings, Pacquiao showed the way for boxers all over the world who are often exploited.

His courage should get Pacquiao an award equal to a Nobel Prize in sports.

The Pacquiao legal triumph over Murad gave meat and meaning to the Muhammad Ali Reform Act that clamored for the full disclosure of sums and purses in a fight.

It's therefore not surprising that the impact of Pacquiao's legal triumph has led boxing expert Hermie Rivera back to his writing table.

Please share Mr. Rivera's colorful composition:

* * *

Manny Pacquiao, the big winner in his bruising legal battle in New York, is thoroughly pleased with the decision of his lawyers to ban his former handlers from pursuing their nefarious practice. Not even carminative pleas for settlement proffered by his erstwhile handlers led by Murad Muhammad and Rod Nazario could soften the steely resolve of the GenSan hero, who's hell-bent in having cases of related nature decided conclusively.

While it took a US court to deliver a knockout blow to the main defendant—sending him down for the count—it will take a Philippine court to nail down the other participants in this dastardly act.

Even a cloudburst hovering over our bedeviled political horizon could not deaden the exuberance of fighters and fans alike when Murad *et al* got their comeuppance.

The continuing legal drama now moves to other courts, including our own.

Tough luck for the accused who were once part of a team that handled a very lucrative enterprise known as the Pacquiao Express, which inevitably evolved into a feisty litigant dead-set in seeking redress from his absconding handlers.

* * *

Now what's next for the Pacman?

A fight, of course.

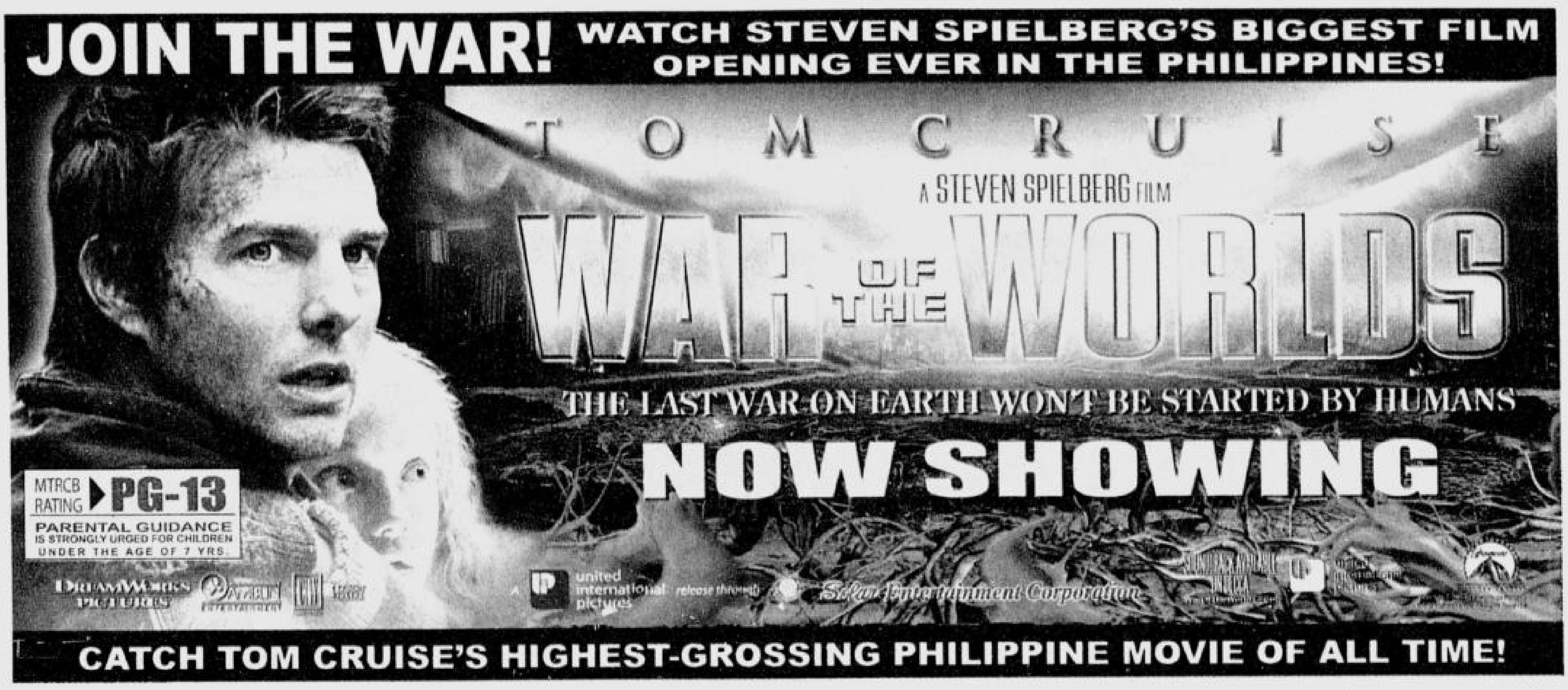
That next big one, after a tune-up in September, will most likely be against Juan Manuel Marquez, who wants big bucks that have eluded him since his drawn match against the Pacman.

Marquez, downed thrice by Pacquiao in their first *mano-a-mano*, will go four pounds up to erase doubts on who's the better man after his draw with the Cotabato battler.

But what about Murad and Rod, you might want to ask, in the light of the nebulous status of that expensive settlement?

They're definitely off the loop, same with the head-banned carrier of Manny's Ring Magazine belt who's awfully busy explaining to taxmen the million bucks he earned by merely showing up for the Morales-Pacquiao fight.

The other ward is in a similar predicament: how to pay taxes from the millions he pocketed by making sure Manny's chocolate was hot before he did his morning jog.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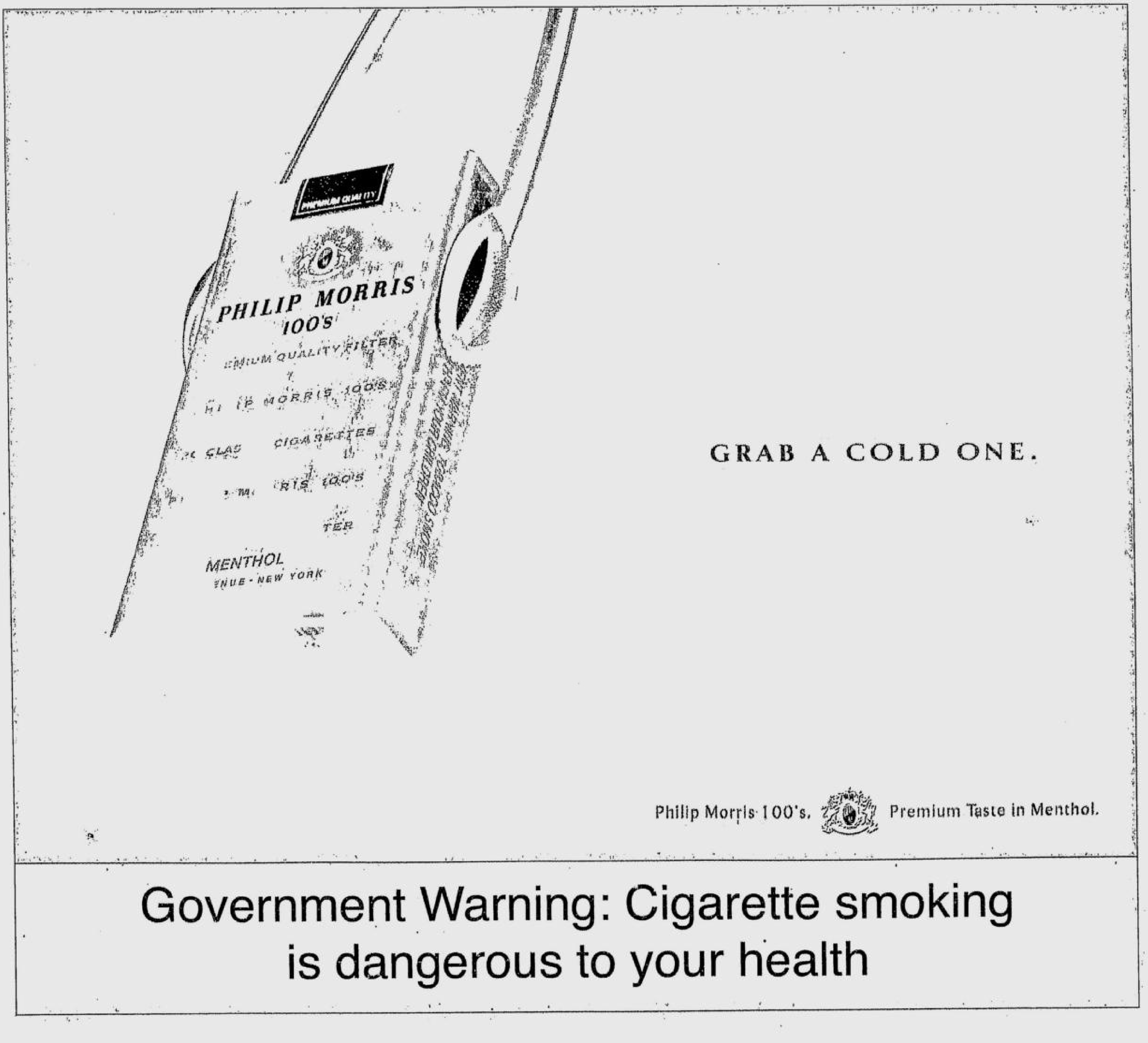

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SPORTS

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Belmonte, Luterte top Tacloban run

TACLOBAN CITY—**Dionesio Belmonte of Ormoc City dethroned back-to-back champion Edgar Lapasigue even as Camila Luterte prevailed for the third straight year in the Eastern Visayas regional elimination race of the 29th National Milo Marathon yesterday.**

BELMONTE

Belmonte overtook Lapasigue near the turning point area and never looked back in topping the men's 21-K race to win the P10,000 cash prize and a ticket to the national finals slated in Metro Manila on Oct. 9.

The 20-year-old Belmonte clocked 1 hour 9 minutes and 11 seconds for the event which started and ended in front of the historic Leyte Provincial Capitol building.

Roy Patindol of Baybay, Leyte, placed second in 1:09:45 while Alberto Paculdo was third in 1:09:51 to join Belmonte in the national finals.

Patindol and Paculdo also overtook Lapasigue, who came all the way from Catbalogan, Samar, to join this annual foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Manila hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

The 43-year-old Luterte proved she was too strong for four 18-year-olds who challenged her in the race.

She won handily in 1:36:28, with Angela Catimpohan second in 1:43:53, Jenny Rose Tegio third in 1:44:19, Jenelyn Suan fourth in 1:47:20 and Genevive Colana fifth in 1:59:36.

Luterte's son Gilbert topped the men's 5-K fun run. He clocked 16.39 minutes to beat Michael Abaigar by nine seconds. Erika Estacion ruled the distaff side in 21:43.

Erika's brother Charles dominated the boys' 6-9 3-K age-group race while sister Elyssa won in the 10-12 3-K run. Gloria Magpatoc topped the 6-9 girls' while Rely Rios ruled the boys' 10-12 race.

More than 6,000 runners answered the starting gun fired by Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla.

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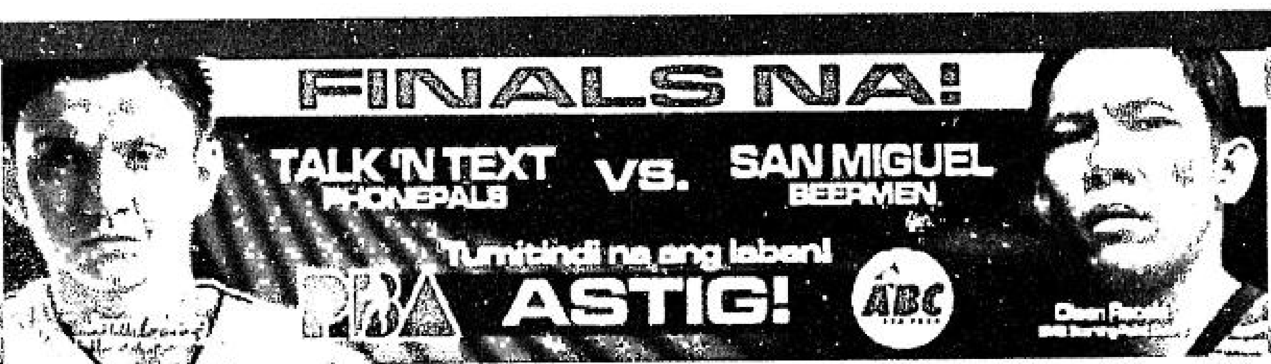
TV GUIDE

Monday, July 4, 2005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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opds	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Oh! Feel Young	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5					Balas Barangay		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice		Fear Factor		Big News	Look Who's Talking		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Reca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		Attic Cat	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	NBA On RPN					Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Cargo For Truth	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Shakey's V-League				Elorde Prod. Sunstar			IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
JackTV	Street Smarts	Worst Case Scenario		Wwe Heat		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Kid Notorious	Comedy Central Presents	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight Weekend		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
AXN		Lost		Worst Case Scenario		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	The Associates		Alias (Season III)		Totally Outrageous		Fear Factor		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami	
Star World	Weird TV	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Frasier	Boston Public		Friends	The King Of Queens
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Animals Like Us		Be The Creature		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Built For The Kill		Animals Like Us	
Solar Sports		Philippine-Qatar Goodwill Games					2005 EBC		NBA Jam Local	Sagupaan		Fight	Sports Desk	WNBA Game				NBA Inside Stuff	NBA TV Daily
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! True Hollywood Story		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Brini Maxwell Show	Modern Girls Guide	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO	Red Water (2.20 PM)			My House In Umbria (3.50 PM)			Open Season			Extreme Measures (7.05 PM)				The Last Samurai					The Big Bounce
Star Movies	The Human Stain (2.45 PM)				Dance With Me (4.40 PM)					Opening Night (6.50 PM)	Cube 2: Hypercube (7.20 PM)			Bulletproof Monk				Shark Zone (10.50PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	What's New Scooby Doo?	Atomic Betty	Zoids Fusors	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	What's New Scooby Doo?	Atomic Betty
ESPN				Tour De France 2005	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship							Sportscenter Asia	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship						
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Pixel Perfect			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Land Before Time IV: Journey Through The Mists	
Cinemax			Tarzan's Fight For His Life (3.45 PM)			Hollywood Confidential (5.15 PM)				Ghost (6.55 PM)				Greedy				Global Effect (10.50PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B Eye		Wife Swap					Regenesis (10.35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B Eye (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Mummy Autopsy		Lion Battlefield		Wild Weather		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Concorde: Anatomy Of Disaster		Ramses: Wrath Of God Or Man?	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL		Ask Rob Thomas	MTV Dives		D-tour	Totaldaters	Punk'D	Rich Girls	On Board at MTV	Brand New	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus						Barclays Classic Highlights		Inside the PGA	The Search TV	Nopi Tunerversion	Tour De France	FMX		Strongman		Tour De France	Cialis Western Open Final		

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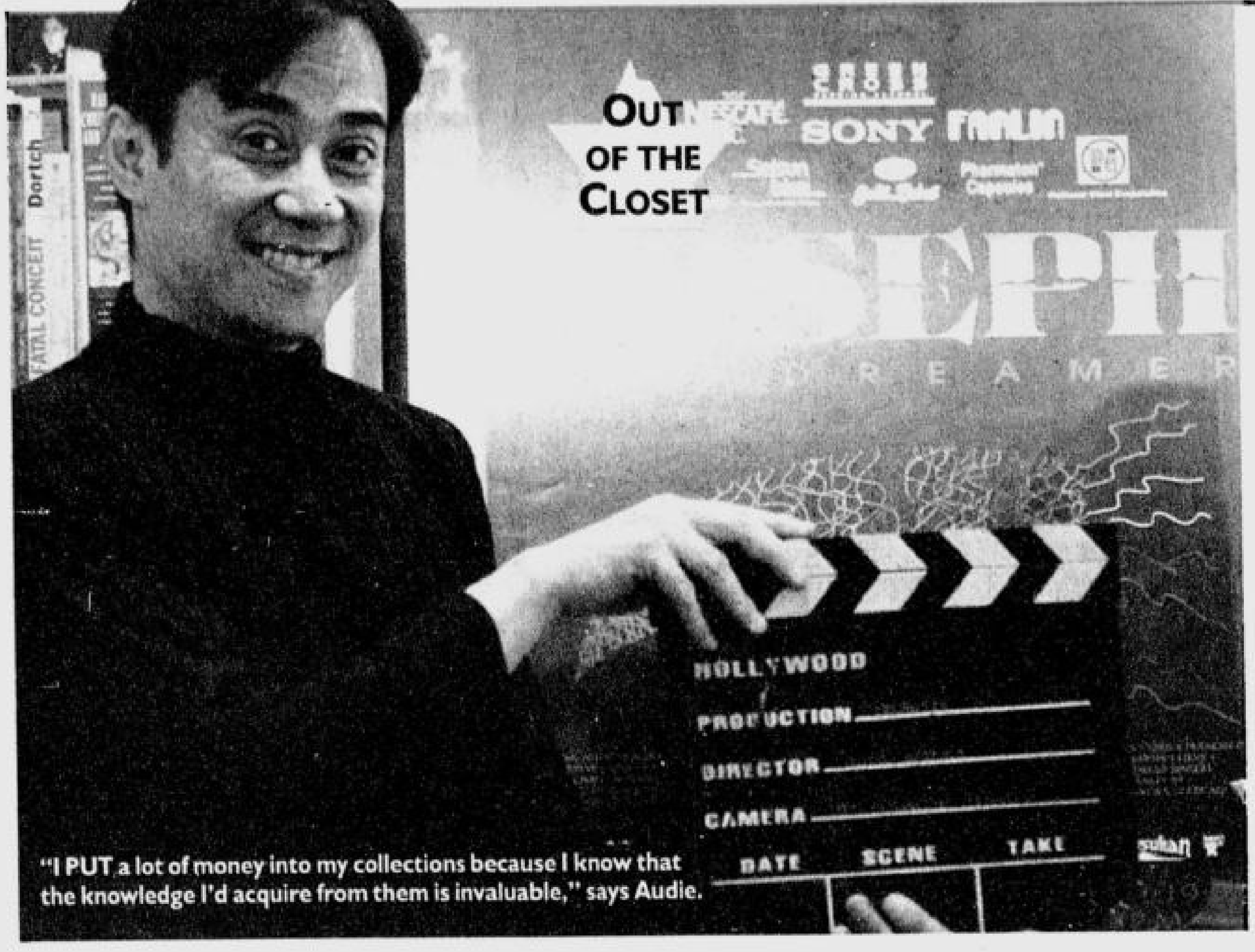
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TAKE

"I PUT a lot of money into my collections because I know that the knowledge I'd acquire from them is invaluable," says Audie.

Audie, the dreamer

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

He's out to build the most complete library for musical theater that even children will enjoy and find useful

TRUMPETS artistic director Audie Gemora says his dream is to build the most complete library for musical theater that would be accessible to everyone interested in the art form.

"The library will have everything, from the classics of Oscar Hammerstein, like 'Oklahoma,' to Leonard Bernstein's 'West Side Story,' to modern works—CDs, music books and scripts," Audie said. "Trumpets currently runs a school called Play Shop. When we look for materials for kids, we always have a hard time. With this [dream] library, all kids can come in and do their own research."

INQUIRER Entertainment recently visited Audie in his Quezon City home. He excitedly showed us what's in his closet—foremost of which is, yes, a wide collection of Broadway musical CDs, music books, and scripts.

"I put a lot of money into these collections because I know that the knowledge I'd acquire from them is invaluable," he pointed out. "With the passing of (Repertory Philippines') Bibot Amador, there are only a few of us left who know musical theater as a craft. If we don't make an effort to pass it on to the young, it will be lost."

Audie also brought out priceless production memorabilia—gifts from fellow actors, access passes to all productions he had been involved with, and souvenir T-shirts that he had kept since the '70s.

"I also keep souvenir shirts of all the shows I've seen in Broadway. These shirts are special because they hold memories."

SHIRTS

"I have shirts from 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe,' 'Honk,' 'First Name,' the first Trumpet show in 1988, and 'Joseph The Dreamer,' the longest-running original musical in the country. It was first staged in Cebu in 1989. It played for 10 years, with Gary Valenciano in the lead role in 1999.

"I did a show in Japan called 'Noli Me Tangere' so the shirt has Japanese marks. I actually have a 'West Side Story' shirt from 1982.

"I know these shirts could easily get damaged so I just store them. I have some shirts from my Repertory days in the '70s and early '80s in my home in Iloilo.

"The clothes I buy depend on the weather at the time I'm shopping. I get cold, and get hot, easily. So I look for clothes that are comfortable."

JACKETS

"Aside from T-shirts, jackets are the most traditional things that theater people have [made for them]. I have 'Miss Saigon,' 'Mermaid,' and 'Les Miserables' jackets. But the one I wear a lot is this denim piece given by a friend. It's very trendy and goes with anything. I've had this for five years now."

SHORTS

"I like wearing shorts because they're comfortable. In theater, it's not all that important what you wear. You're one big family; there are no pretenses. We don't have hang-ups."

FOOTWEAR

"Because I used to dance, footwear is very important to me. I want to be comfortable all the time. I don't like

AUDIE/ A2-2

Using star power for worthy causes

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FROM time to time, we remind stars that their celebrity status has power, which they should use more purposefully for good. Some celebrities aren't really clear on why this should be the case, since they believe that stardom is to be used mainly for personal gain.

But it really is true that stardom engenders power and influence that should be

USING/ A2-2

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09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END
2 BATMAN BEGINS
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
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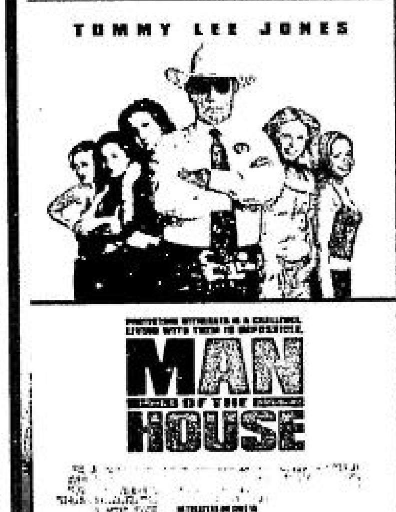

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3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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3 BATMAN BEGINS
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6 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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7 MONSTER-IN-LAW
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4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 NASAAN KA MAN

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ASIDE from T-shirts, Audie collects jackets of his favorite productions.

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11:40, 2:20, 5:00
7:40, 10:20
PG-13
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 11:00
PG-13
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
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8:05, 10:40
PG-13

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WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 1:15,3:45,6:15,8:45	BATMAN BEGINS GP 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20	WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

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"IT'S A tradition among actors to exchange gifts on play," says Audie of these souvenirs.

Audie, the drea

my feet enclosed, so I prefer sandals to leather shoes that cramp the feet.

"One time, I was in ABS-CBN and Martin Nievera saw me. He said, 'Hey dude, you like those things?' I told him I wore them all the time. He sent me three pairs of the same sandals."

SUITS

"I used to wear tuxedos when hosting beauty contests and TV shows. They're normally custom-made. When I went mainstream, aside from pop singing, I also went into hosting and my first big break was the Super Model competition. I hosted that event for six or seven years. I had many other stints. When the likes of Paolo Bediones came along, out *na ako*—gladly, because at that time, I was already running Trumpets."

CD COLLECTION

"I've not opened most of these CDs. They're mostly Broadway stuff. Because I'm a collector, *gusto ko bago*. They get more expensive with time. I discovered a secret in buying CDs. I used to go to New York and buy them off the rack. What I do now, while I'm staying over at a friend's in New York, is list down all the CDs that I want and order them on-line. I get them at almost half the price.

"I arrange them in alphabetical order.

"This month Trumpets will open a music studio called Musicademy, where we will teach music, instruments, languages and

speech

PROD

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Using star power to

> Show biz denizens should not merely entertain. They should also inform, involve, inspire, and thus be of service to their audience

bigger than itself.

If stars don't use it well
would be such a monument
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gelina Jolie boosting the
world countries. **Jerry Lewi**
muscular dystrophy.

These and other celebri
their visibility and clout, a
abroad, should emulate the

Recently, another supers
celebrity status to focus in
nificant issues: While pro
the Worlds," **Tom Cruise** w
the excessive use of anti-de
States.

He batted instead for ps
and vitamins. He also debu
imbalance in the brains as t

Follow-up discussion

Cruise's tirade provoked
involving two top psychiatri
in Cruise's cautionary comm
him of talking about somet
comment on.

Whatever viewers though
Cruise at least generated
medical issue that affects m

If he weren't a star, the di
tle impact, and only a few p
vated to review their health
ative effects of excessive
pills.

For fans who relate to Cru
el, the star's serious discuss
have been perplexing.

But we trust that it pro
vorite celebrities in a new a

Yes, there's more to stars
nature screen personas, ro
lifestyles. They should als
volved in the life of the natio
ularity to motivate the publ
to face up to issues that dese

After all, show biz deniz
than just entertain. They sh
inspire, and thus be of servi
aspects of its collective invo

Aside from weighing in o
so taught viewers a lesson o
when he recently lectured a
ing a promo tour of London

Other stars should take
venture superstar, who cle
mind these days than his
with **Katie Holmes**.

What a relief.

'Batman' collection

FOUR Batman movies have
VCD Twin Pack collection:
rected by **Tim Burton**, with
Caped Crusader ("Batman"

Volume 2 features **Joel S**
man Forever" with **Val Kil**
starring **George Clooney** a

'Serene Light'

BUTCH Baluyut's retros
tographs, "Serene Light," o
on July 7 at the CCP Main G

Gallery hours are 10 a.m

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

the first night of a

HE PREFERS sandals to leather shoes that cramp the feet.

mer

From page A2-1

. These CDs will come in handy."

DUCTION MEMORABILIA

ep all my opening-night gifts, like ion figurines from 'The Lion, The and The Wardrobe,' mermaid fig- from 'Little Mermaid,' an egg- jewelry box from 'Honk,' an action rom 'Peter Pan' and keepsakes from The Dreamer.' I also have gifts for did 'Mr. Noah's Big Boat,' 'Carousel' pertory Philippines and 'Raja Man-' with Peta (Philippine Educational r Association). It's a tradition actors to exchange gifts on the ght of the production. I also mething from 'Epol/Apol.' I that on Channel 2.

also kept my access from all productions I volved in, like Christian a's first major concert, directed, Jasmine Trias' at the Araneta Coliseum, ttle Mermaid,' or the times hosted 'Nickelodeon.'

been collecting music books for a ne now, since I studied in New York sity. After I returned here in 1986, I go to Broadway every three years, up with what's going on because ear there's a new production. The isic book that I bought has got to be st of Broadway,' which I got here in al Bookstore. I also have a wide col- of playbills of Broadway musicals

HE WEARS custom-made tuxedos for hosting beauty contests and TV shows.

THIS 5-year-old jacket is a gift from a friend.

HIS CDs are arranged in alphabetical order.

that I've watched.

"I keep masks that I bought in Singapore. We use them for fantasy productions. I also have Afro wigs or white wigs for Christmas, fangs and beards and mustaches. When I travel, I really look around for props and costumes. *Mahirap kasi hanapin dito.*"

MASKS bought in Singapore are used for fantasy productions.

boost worthy causes

From page A2-1

to.promote good causes, it l waste.

funds for AIDS research. An- welfare of children in third s hosting annual telethons for

ies have made good use of d other stars, both here and n.

ar proved the potency of his ternational attention on sig- noting his new film, "War of ent into a side discussion on pressant drugs in the United

ychological therapy, exercise ked the notion of a chemical e cause of depression.

a follow-up discussion on TV sts, one of whom saw wisdom ents, while the other accused hing he wasn't competent to

t as a result of the discussion, enewed public interest in a llions.

cussion would have made lit- eople would have been moti- ptions, and to avoid the neg- ngestion of anti-depressant

ise only on an action-film lev- on of the medical issue must

pted others to see their fa- d more enlightened context. ike Tom Cruise than their sig- mantic flings and jet-setting be productive citizens in- n, and ready to use their pop- to support worthy causes, or rve their attention.

ns are supposed to do more uld also inform, involve and e to their audience in various vements.

the medical issue, Cruise al- r two in responsible behavior stalker who spritzed him dur- or "War of the Worlds."

heir cue from the action-ad- rly has more things on his exceedingly public romance

been compiled in a DVD and lume 1 features two films di- **Michael Keaton** playing the nd "Batman Returns"). chumacher's versions—"Bat- ner, and "Batman & Robin," d **Chris O'Donnel.**

pective exhibition of pho- ens with a cocktail reception llery. It runs until Aug. 14. to 6 p.m. daily, except Mondays and holidays. Call 8323702.

On Animal Planet

AT 8 P.M. on July 10, Animal Planet telecasts "Wild Horses: Return to China."

Set in the stunningly beautiful yet stark landscape of west China, the documentary shows how the wild horses adjust to the harsh conditions of the wilderness, and reclaim the long-lost territories of their ancestors.

Viewers are pulled into the story as the members of the herd take on life and death struggles in their new homes.

And every Monday, beginning July 14 at 9 p.m., "The Crocodile Hunter" shows **Steve Irwin** at his best, bravely interacting with potentially lethal animals in hazardous situations where the wildlife often has the upper hand.

2nd WEEK
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Find out why this film has become the Talk-of-the-Town
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Michael Vartan
Jennifer Lopez
MONSTER-in-LAW
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SUE STORM
POWERS:
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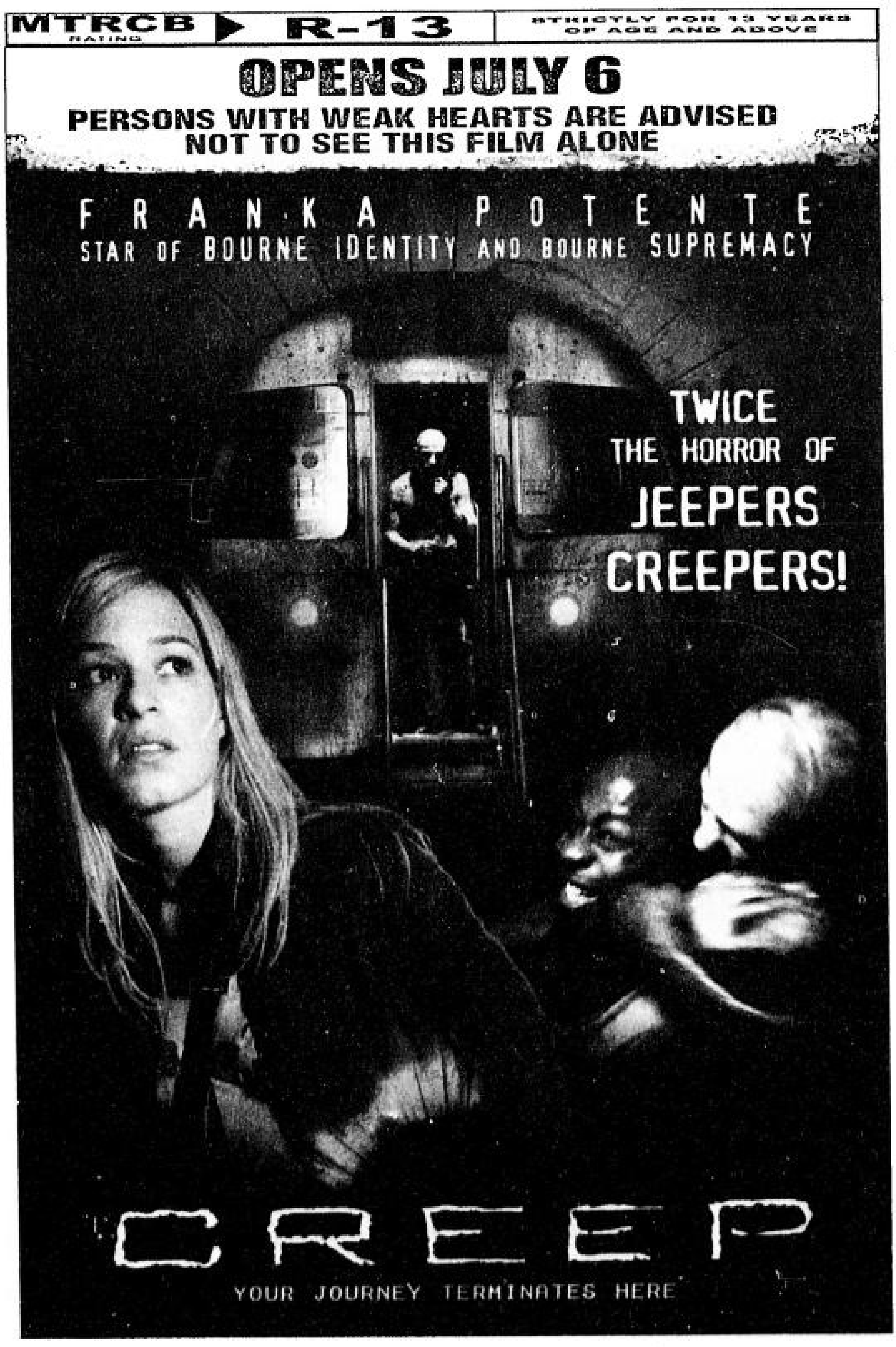
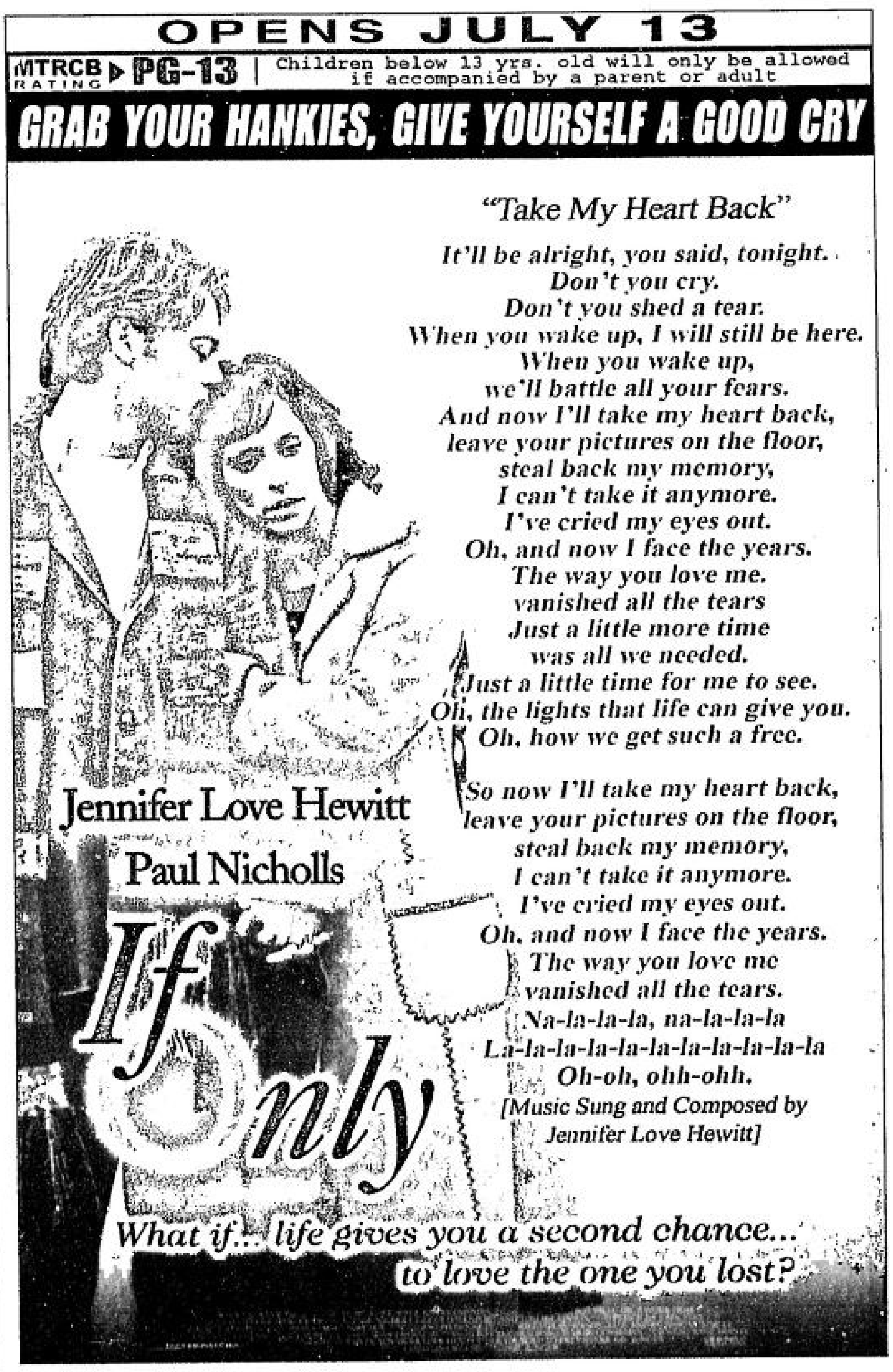
- Projects incredible durable invisible forcefields
FANTASTIC 4 FOUR
OPENS JULY 6


MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
OPENS JULY 6
PERSONS WITH WEAK HEARTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO SEE THIS FILM ALONE
FRANKA POTENTE
STAR OF BOURNE IDENTITY AND BOURNE SUPREMACY
TWICE THE HORROR OF JEEPERS CREEPERS!
CREEP
YOUR JOURNEY TERMINATES HERE


OPENS JULY 13
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
GRAB YOUR HANKIES, GIVE YOURSELF A GOOD CRY
Jennifer Love Hewitt
Paul Nicholls
If Only
What if... life gives you a second chance... to love the one you lost?

"Take My Heart Back"

It'll be alright, you said, tonight.
Don't you cry.
Don't you shed a tear.
When you wake up, I will still be here.
When you wake up,
we'll battle all your fears.
And now I'll take my heart back,
leave your pictures on the floor,
steal back my memory,
I can't take it anymore.
I've cried my eyes out.
Oh, and now I face the years.
The way you love me.
vanished all the tears
Just a little more time
was all we needed.
Just a little time for me to see.
Oh, the lights that life can give you.
Oh, how we get such a free.

So now I'll take my heart back,
leave your pictures on the floor,
steal back my memory,
I can't take it anymore.
I've cried my eyes out.
Oh, and now I face the years.
The way you love me
vanished all the tears.
Na-la-la-la, na-la-la-la
La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la
Oh-oh, ohh-ohh.
[Music Sung and Composed by
Jennifer Love Hewitt]

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Maoui David's success story

Text Styling and Direction by Larry Leviste
Photos by Romy Homillada
FASHION BY: PINK SODA
MAKEUP BY: DIERIE ORTES

SEVENTEEN-year-old Mary Louise "Maoui" David's success story is an inspiration for every young woman with a dream. This Star Magic (ABS-CBN talent center) singer and TV actress never buckled down in the face of insurmountable odds.

"I left Manila to live in San Diego, California, when I was seven," Maoui told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I was the geek who joined the school band, playing the violin."

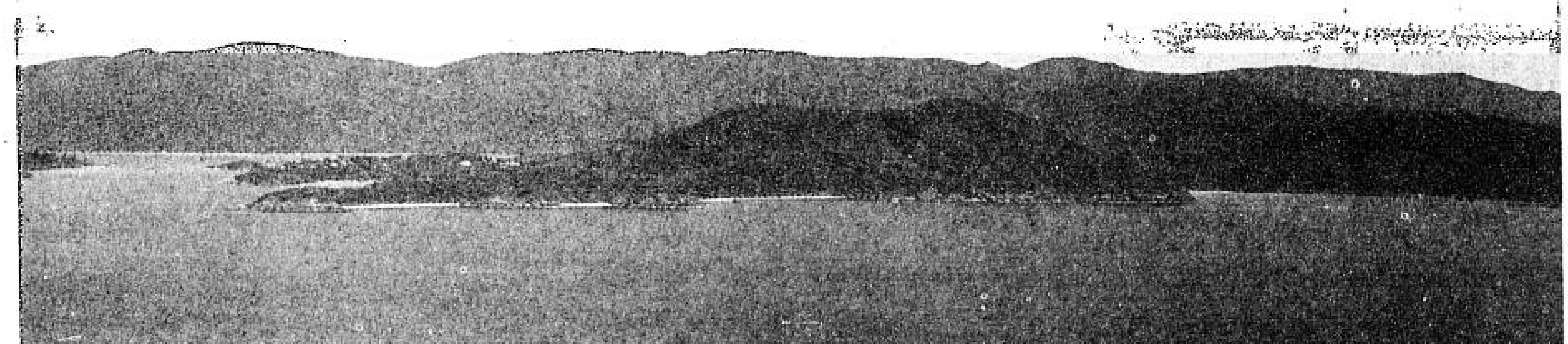
Her father worked in a Pinoy restaurant, which had karaoke singing at night. One evening, Dad asked her to sing. She was hooked. "Once I heard the applause and saw the sparkle in the audience's eyes, I knew I wanted to be a singer. I practiced everyday while maintaining good grades in school." That was in 2001.

Soon after, she caught "ASAP" on TFC channel. "I went home to Manila to be a singer. I wanted to be famous," said Maoui. She didn't make it, so back to San Diego she flew, down but not out.

Burning ambition intact, she took singing lessons modulation technique and daily hours of practice on her karaoke machine. "It was my fighting spirit and almost all of my parents' savings that got me where I am today," said Maoui.

She finally made ABS-CBN's Talent Center Batch 10 along with Bea Alonzo and Nadine Samonte. Now Maoui is remembered as the blue tailed mermaid in "Marina." She sang a duet with King for the theme song of "Krystala."

No wonder Maoui's motto in life is: "Pursue your dream. It's a journey of hope and courage at best. If you are patient and pray hard you will get there."



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America in RP *sine*

We've told of the horrors of war in 'Death March' and 'Fort Santiago.' There have been bubbly pieces like 'Victory Joe' and, at times, peeks into the downside of human relationships, as in the movie 'Hanggang Pier'

By Ophellia San Juan
Contributor

THE GREAT rescue of Filipino-American prisoners of war in Cabanatuan, filmed 60 years after the event ("The Great Raid," starring Joseph Fiennes and Cesar Montano), may seem like déjà vu to certain surviving veterans of World War II.

It would be precious to them for the memories it would evoke—the gung-ho optimism of youthful years, the tribulations of incarceration, the bonds of shared suffering and eventual triumph that obliterate racial differences.

But to some it may rekindle unfortunate aspirations. Die-hard believers in American compensation still forthcoming in their twilight years may find renewed hope. Those in the United States patiently waiting for US Congress action on their compensation lobby certainly will experience new vigor in congregating daily, and those in the Philippines are bound to pick up bits and morsels of news regarding this.

They should not keep hoping for this fool's gold. After all, they served both America and the Philippines during the war, and if more benefits should accrue to them, it would seem more reasonable to demand these of the Philippine government.

Fil-Am Friendship Day

It would be more appropriate perhaps to regard their past efforts as a friendly gesture for an ally, and keep celebrating Fil-Am Friendship Day, like today. This was the sentiment of many war movies after the Liberation in 1945.

Aside from tales of the horrors of war, like "Death March" and "Fort Santiago," there have been ebullient pieces like "Victory Joe." Sometimes tackled was the downside of human relationships, as in "Hanggang Pier," about Filipinas who fell in love with the charismatic liberating forces, only to realize that the men would eventually be shipped back to the US, leaving the women to say goodbye at the piers. On the other hand, the Pinoys' unflappable sense of humor was seen in movies like "Ang Asawa Kong Amerikana."

But beyond the laughs, the suspense, and the excitement of action, war films often lacked the intimate human interaction that dramas and some comedies easily afford. The Allied soldiers' camaraderie and brotherhood were never fully exploited.

The political, economic and social ties between the Philippines and the US were generally obscured, planting the seed for Filipino sentiment that American actions here were mostly interventionist.

Well-founded or only popularly adopted, this sentiment has its real-life counterpart in the many instances of quiet, sincere friendships that existed between many Filipinos and Americans. In the movie world, two of our best directors had American scriptwriters/collaborators—Lamberto V. Avellana had the gregarious Rolf Bayer, and Dr. Gerardo de Leon had a Mr. Lyn.

Perhaps never to be documented are the instances of physical aid and moral support that many unnamed officers and soldiers extended to each other on the battlefield or within the confines of concentration camps; or American soldiers who came back to make honest women of their erstwhile "Hanggang Pier" girlfriends.

For feedback, e-mail ophelliasj@yahoo.com

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Petron gets tax perks for ₱9B worth of projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments has granted tax incentives and other perks for three projects of local oil giant Petron Corp. worth a total of P9.4 billion.

Documents from the BOI showed that the country's biggest oil firm was given incentives under the 2004 Investment Priorities Plan for a P3.3-billion manufacturing facility for benzene and toluene; a P4.82-billion propylene plant, and a P1.61-billion plant for the production of mixed xylenes.

Benzene and toluene are both found in gasoline and are used in the manufacture of plastics, detergents, pesticides and other chemicals.

Aside from being used to make dynamite, toluene—like mixed xylenes—is used to make solvents in paints, paint, thinners, rubber, printing, adhesives, lacquers, leather tanning and disinfectants.

Toluene and propylene are both used to produce resins. Those made from toluene are used in the construction, automotive and appliance industries while those made from propylene are used in food packaging, textiles and laboratory equipment.

According to the BOI, the benzene and toluene facility as well as the mixed xylenes plant were given pioneer status, which entitles them to an additional two years of income tax holiday on top of the regular four years.

Aside from income tax holiday, BOI-registered projects enjoy duty-free importation of capital equipment and other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

The mixed xylenes plant is not considered a new export producer as Petron is already operating a facility for recovering the compounds in its refinery in Bataan.

The biggest project is expected to produce 13,770 metric tons a year of benzene and 114,300 MT of toluene a year.

The planned propylene facility will have a capacity of yielding 135,900 MT a year while the new mixed xylenes plant will turn out 126,000 MT annually.

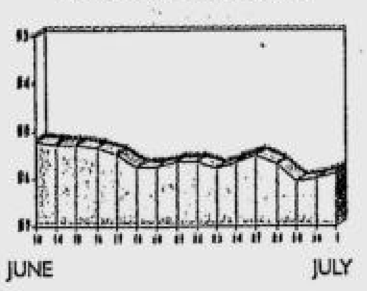
Asked for more details, Petron officials said the company still had to make engineering and procurement efforts for the proposed projects and that these still needed final approval by the management.

PETRON/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 55.87 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., July 1, 2005

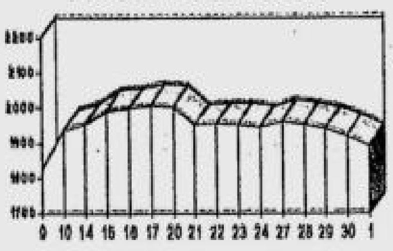
¥ 111.09 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., July 1, 2005

GOLD: $437.30-437.80
per ounce Hong Kong, June 30, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Investors seen dumping stocks

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

INVESTORS are likely to dump stocks this week following the Supreme Court's decision freezing the implementation of the expanded VAT law and continuing concerns on the political crisis hounding the Arroyo administration.

"People are not looking too much at economic fundamentals. People are just glued to the political tension," said Alfred Dy, head of research at CLSA Philippines Inc.

Last week, the main index fell 52 points to 1,895.25 after President Macapagal-Arroyo confessed she talked to a Comelec official during the 2004 national elections. She denied fraud and publicly apologized for her lapse of judgment. Still, streets were littered with protests last week after opposition groups called for Ms Arroyo to resign.

INVESTORS/ B8

TETANGCO

CHALLENGING TIMES

Tetangco takes oath as new BSP chief today

By Doris C. Dumlao

ONE factor why the peso managed to stay afloat last week despite the escalating domestic political tension, currency dealers said, was that Amando Tetangco Jr. would be sworn into office today as the new monetary and banking czar.

The changing of the guard at the BSP could not have come at a more challenging time: the peso is sharply weakening against the US dollar amid an election-rigging scandal hounding President Macapagal-Arroyo while skyrocketing global oil prices are driving up consumer prices and aggravating foreign exchange pressures by bloating the import bill.

Tetangco's handling of snowballing pressures at the foreign exchange market in the next few days is a litmus test and traders said most of them have turned cautious in deference to the new BSP chief.

On Friday, the peso bounced back to the 55:$1 level ahead of Tetangco's swearing in.

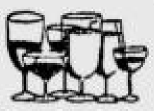
Traders said a sudden tightening of the BSP's interest rates, for instance, would easily burn those capitalizing on the current political unrest to hoard dollars.

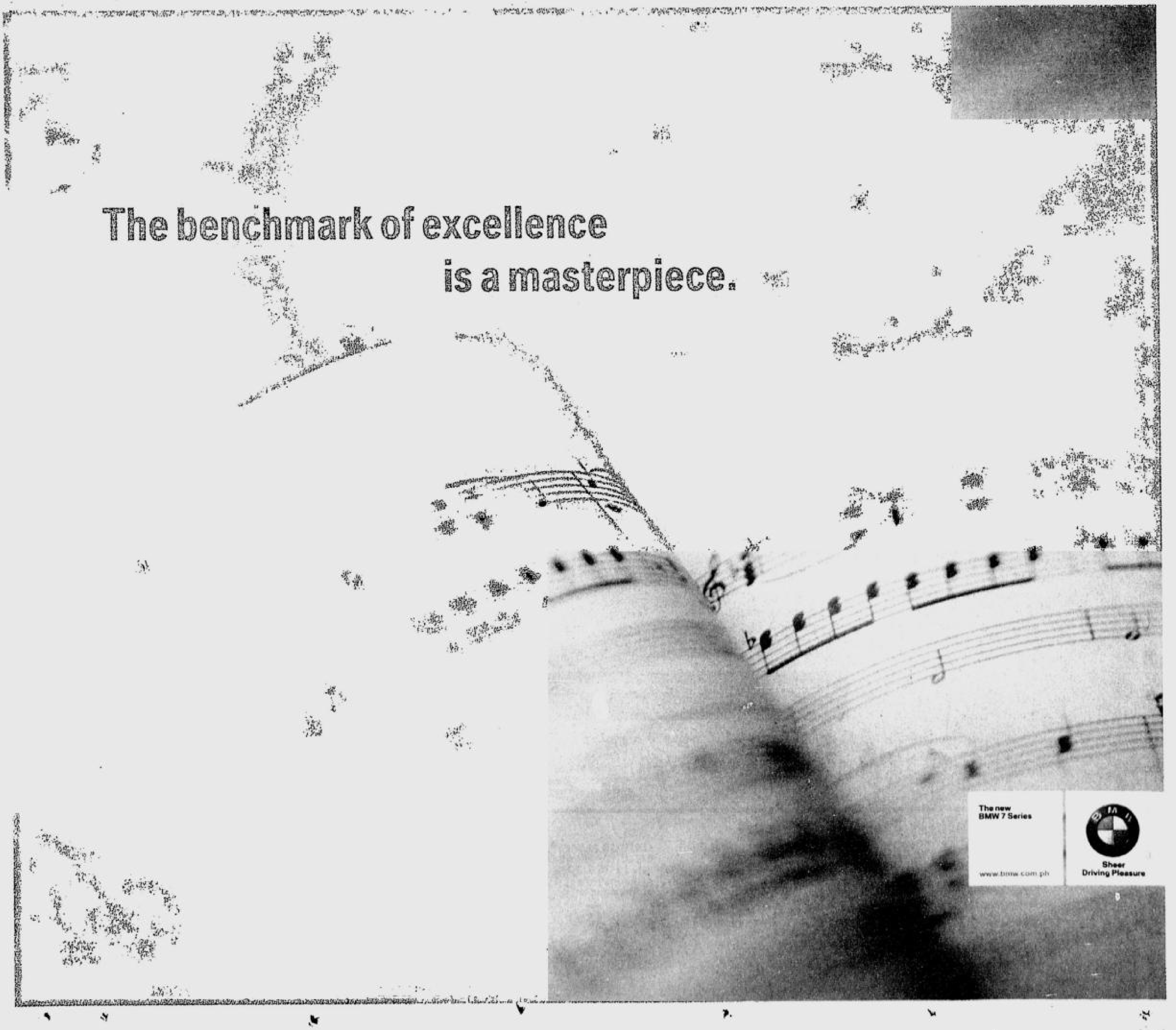
But nobody knows how long

TETANGCO/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Garments, textiles exports hit $739M in April /B4
Cocktales /B5
Makati Med wants doctors to infuse fresh capital /B6
DMCI to team up with Marubeni /B8





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- International Master Franchise of the Year -
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• Minimum of five (5) years in franchise operations in the Philippines
• The master franchisor must also have five (5) years franchise operations from the country of origin.
• The company must have a stable, credible & excellent reputation both here & abroad

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- Franchise Marketing Campaign of the Year -
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• Minimum of three (3) years in franchise operations
• The company must have a successful and effective franchise marketing program that contributed significantly to the franchise growth of the company and to the advancement of the franchising industry.

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From crisis to crisis

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

IT WAS all a matter of time. That we are in yet another political crisis comes as no surprise to most of us; the question was simply one of timing. A few months ago, in their "Beneath the Fiscal Crisis" paper, Ateneo economists described our country to be perennially muddling through from crisis to crisis, and never quite getting anywhere. True enough, here we are again. While we have yet to extricate ourselves from a debilitating fiscal crisis, we are now in the midst of another, potentially more debilitating crisis, a political one. And yet only the most unperceptive and indifferent among us wouldn't have expected it to come sooner or later.

Simmering volcano

Basic inequities and disparities in our economy and society have not only persisted, but have in fact further widened through the passage of time, turning our nation into the social volcano that many describe our society to be. The pressure has constantly been building up, occasionally vented off by small upheavals like Edsa 1 and Edsa 2, but not quite dissipating the mounting pressure as even these upheavals left the underlying social, economic and political structures and circumstances largely unchanged.

The Ateneo paper described the economic structures that have perpetuated the wide gaps in our society. It spoke of the economic powers in our midst who through the years have propped up the holders of political power, who in turn helped the former to deepen and widen their hold on business and the economy. Today, it is these same forces arguing vigorously for the status quo--even if it means forsaking truth, justice and righteousness--on the strength of the argument that we cannot risk "destabilizing" the economic and business environment with another change in the country's leadership. Some 13 months ago, these same forces chose to look the other way as countless votes were either being disenfranchised or stolen outright. The important thing then, as it is now, was to preserve the status quo under a leadership perceived to be friendly to their interests. Thus, the wiretapping scandal is to them nothing more than an annoying distraction that makes it harder to keep the truth under the rug for the sake of preserving "economic stability."

What troubles me about this attitude is the way it fails to realize that in the end, economic stability can not be durable unless it is built on truth, fairness and righteousness. The stability that current advocates for the status quo are trying to protect simply cannot last. It will only be a matter of time before we fall into yet another crisis. Besides, this "stability" being protected is largely illusory. In my dictionary, an ongoing fiscal crisis and an inflation rate approaching double-digits hardly describe economic stability.

Unity is key

I often ended my speeches in the 1990s with the imagery of a banca whose occupants must row in unison and in the same direction in order to surge forward; otherwise, if everyone rows in different directions, our national banca would just keep spinning aimlessly in the water. It is this unity, this spirit of oneness as a nation, that has constantly eluded us.

But our social, economic and political divisions as a people seem to run so deep as to make such oneness an impossible dream. In her "I am sorry" message to the country, the President reiterated her recurrent plea for unity under her leadership in facing our collective challenges as a people. The message is right; unfortunately, the proponent is not. It is impossible to find unity under a leader who has lost the confidence of the majority of Filipinos, as borne out by respectable surveys--and that was even before the wiretapping scandal broke out.

Who should bear the message of unity, then? It is equally impossible for our people to find unity behind a leader widely perceived to be of questionable integrity and to have links to illegal activities. Nor is it possible to find unity behind a leader widely seen to lack the competence for the role, or seen to be subject to control and manipulation by powerful vested business and political interests. And yet, these are apt descriptions for the most prominent alternatives being bruited about, save for one.

Unity in faith

At this time when people have allegedly grown tired and skeptical of extra-constitutional means to change our leadership, but where the constitutional alternatives are largely unacceptable and unlikely to bring about much-needed unity, there is a creeping feeling of helplessness and desperation in our national situation. "Is there hope for our country?" is a question I constantly get asked by people who seem to think I could answer it better than they could. Can we ever find the elusive unity we all need in order to move forward?

To my mind, there are two things that clearly unite us Filipinos. The first is our unswerving faith in God, a faith that transcends religions. The second is our deep concern for the welfare and future of our children. The key to overcoming our current predicament does not lie in any man or woman, then, but in these things that unite us all.

In this time of seeming national desperation, when none of the apparent alternatives seems appealing or acceptable, there is one clear recourse, and that is prayer. In time of great distress, even the most hardened agnostic ultimately turns to prayer in desperation (I have even witnessed professed atheists do so!). Similarly, the one thing that will see us through our current crisis is collective, incessant prayer as a nation. God has never, and will never turn His back on one who has humbled himself in prayer; God always makes a way. What more when an entire nation unites in doing the same.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Tetangco takes oath ...

From page B1

Tetangco's honeymoon with the market will last.

The new BSP chief, who has lost weight since he was left in charge of the institution in late March when predecessor Rafael Buenaventura went on a medical leave of absence, has so far avoided increases in its overnight rates as much as he could.

But the 25-basis point increase in overnight rates in April might soon be insufficient especially with the prospects of continued tightening of interest rates by the US Federal Reserve, as Tetangco himself has hinted.

"If the US tightening continues, the result will be narrower interest rate differential and that will have an implication on the exchange rate at some point," Tetangco said in a press briefing Friday.

"The BSP would take any appropriation action if necessary down the road," he said.

If the peso depreciates as a result of narrower differential, Tetangco said this could exert inflationary pressures.

"Even the prospect of narrower interest rate differentials can already affect inflation expectations, so we'll continue to track that closely," he said.

If not for the political turmoil, Tetangco would have been sworn into office with less concerns on the exchange rate.

Asked where the local currency would be trading without the political jitters, Tetangco said: "The way it was behaving prior to all of these noise—about P54-54.50:$1."

But the political noise is not the only factor weighing down on the peso. Global oil prices are now trading near $60 a barrel and US investment bank Goldman Sach had warned that it could go as high as $100.

Being dependent on oil imports and with the government's fiscal constraints, the Philippines is seen as one of the countries in Asia likely to be worst hit by runaway oil prices.

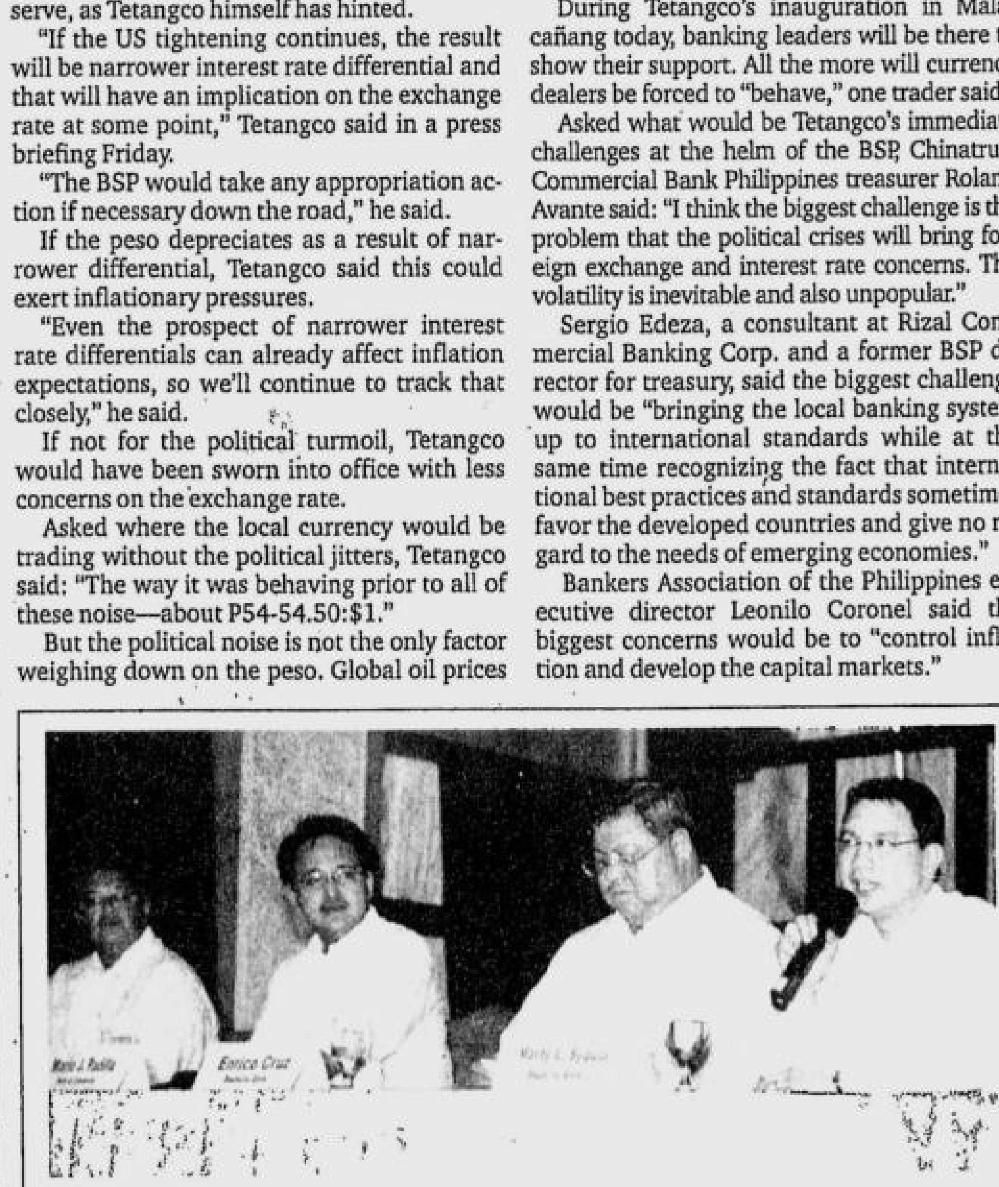
But Tetangco said that even if oil prices hit the historic highs of 1979, the country would have ample foreign exchange reserves to pay for its import bill.

During Tetangco's inauguration in Malacañang today, banking leaders will be there to show their support. All the more will currency dealers be forced to "behave," one trader said.

Asked what would be Tetangco's immediate challenges at the helm of the BSP, Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines treasurer Roland Avante said: "I think the biggest challenge is the problem that the political crises will bring foreign exchange and interest rate concerns. The volatility is inevitable and also unpopular."

Sergio Edeza, a consultant at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and a former BSP director for treasury, said the biggest challenge would be "bringing the local banking system up to international standards while at the same time recognizing the fact that international best practices and standards sometimes favor the developed countries and give no regard to the needs of emerging economies."

Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel said the biggest concerns would be to "control inflation and develop the capital markets."



BANK of Commerce (Bancommerce) sponsored briefings for its clients in Manila, Cebu, Davao and Pampanga in line with its flotation of Tier-2 capital notes, which was recently approved by the BSP. The bank's officers were joined by representatives of Deutsche Bank, who will act as lead arranger for the issue. Shown during the Manila briefing are (from L to R): Bancommerce EVP Arturo Manuel Jr.; Bancommerce EVP Mario J. Padilla; Deutsche Bank country manager Enrico Cruz and Deutsche Bank VP Marty Syquia.

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Petron gets tax perks . . .

From page B1

If the benzene and toluene plant projects would push through, Petron plans to finance it with P992 million in equity and P2.3 billion in debt.

The proposed projects were lined up after the oil refiner invested at least $100 million in facilities that would lower the harmful contents of gasoline and diesel as required by the Clean Air Act.

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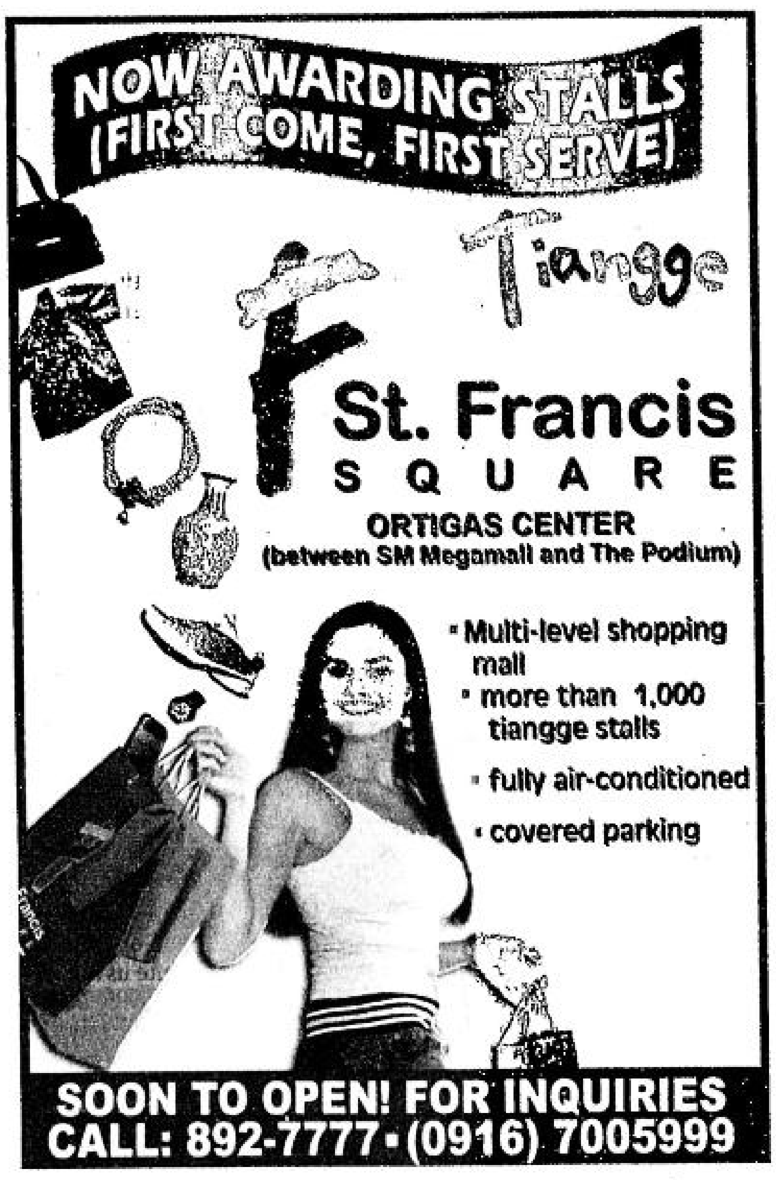

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FLAT 0.32% GROWTH

Garments, textiles exports hit $739M in April

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL garments and textiles industry posted a slight export growth of 0.32 percent to $739 million in the first four months of the year, from about $737 million in the same period last year.

Still, the Garments and Textiles Export Board said the industry reaped the benefits of a non-quota global market as combined exports to the European Union and Canada went up 34.7 percent to $159 million, from $118 million in the same period last year.

GTEB executive director Serafin Juliano said the increase was due to the local firms' strategy of shifting to higher value products, particularly apparel like trousers, coats and skirts made of silk and natural fibers.

"Philippine exports are shifting brand, market and product mixes, as the end of the worldwide quota regime (at the end of 2004) enabled global brands to be more flexible in allocating volumes to their different sources," Juliano said.

Exports to the EU grew 10.7 percent to $79.46 million, while shipments to Canada increased 2.7 percent to $19.87 million.

However, exports to the United States declined 6.2 percent to $580.68 million, from $619 million in the first four months.

Juliano said the move toward higher priced products was paying off such that, in the case of silk and natural fiber apparel for instance, earnings went up 105 percent to P23.9 million, even as this represented a growth of only 2.86 percent in terms of volume.

"The country's capability is in quality products, efficient service and value-for-money, rather than a blind pursuit for lower prices," the official said.

Juliano was referring to how local exporters positioned themselves in the face of strong competition from high-volume, low-value competitors, such as those in China.

"The interplay between consistency and predictability of (where buyers source their supplies) and our customers' performance in the end-market suggest that we could achieve our forecast of a 10-percent growth for 2005," he said.

Garments exports hit $2.67 billion in 2004.

Retail sales reports for the first four months, by eight of the nine top buyers of Philippine exports, support this forecast, Juliano added.

In that period, Polo Ralph Lauren grew first-quarter sales by 10 percent; Ann Taylor by 4.3 percent; Adidas—driving its business with its Sports Heritage and Golf Apparel portfolio—grew 11 percent; Liz Claiborne—with 37 new stores in Europe—grew 10 percent; Warnaco—owner of the Calvin Klein, Nautica and Chaps brands—grew 37 percent.

Levi's grew 5 percent with increased sales in Europe and Asia; May Department Stores grew by 14 percent; and Federated—owner of Bloomingdale's and Macy's—grew by 2 percent.

Juliano said that if the performance in the first four months carried through until yearend, garments exports would increase by 8 percent.

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Banks' bad loans down to 11.22%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BAD loans of Philippine commercial banks declined to 11.22 percent of their total loans as of April this year, from 11.3 percent in March, due to the sale of more soured assets to special purpose vehicles.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that total non-performing loans fell by 1.6 percent month-on-month even as total loan portfolio also dropped by 0.9 percent.

The end-April NPL level was also 2.36 percentage points better than the 13.58 percent ratio recorded in the same period last year.

During the first four months of this year, the industry's total NPLs amounted to P203.86 billion compared to P242.94 billion a year ago and P207.19 billion a month ago.

Of the P3.32-billion cut in NPLs from end-March, some P2.82 billion represented soured loans sold to SPVs.

On the other hand, the sector's real and other properties owned or acquired (Ropoas) as a ratio of gross assets declined to 5.05 percent from the previous month's 5.11 percent.

This was likewise made possible by the bulk sale of P4 billion worth of Ropoas using the SPV framework, reducing the value of the sector's idle properties to P199.21 billion.

Because of the decline in NPLs and Ropoas, the industry's non-performing asset (NPA) ratio improved further to 10.03 percent from 10.12 percent last month and 12.39 percent last year.

At end-April, total NPAs stood at P394.57 billion, as P6.85 billion worth of NPAs was transferred to SPVs.

As of May 31, 2005, total NPAs approved for sale under the SPV Act of 2002 amounted to P58.87 billion.

The SPV Law, which expired in April, waived the documentary stamp tax, the capital gains tax, and the e-VAT (expanded value-added tax) and reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent on SPV transactions.

RP, India set air services negotiations

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES has scheduled talks for an air services agreement with India that will allow domestic carriers to cash in on India's 1-billion passenger market.

Tomas Mañalac, executive director of the Civil Aeronautics Board, said the Philippines' air panel was just waiting for Malacañang's approval of the air talks scheduled on July 20 and 21.

India's aviation authority agreed last week to sit down with its Philippine counterpart and revise the bilateral air agreement signed in 1949.

Mañalac said the CAB had been requesting for talks since 2003.

"There is a need to update routes and capacity. What we have with India is a basic air services agreement," said Mañalac.

Philippine Airlines, Asia's oldest carrier, used to fly to India but stopped serving the route in 1954 when then President Ramon Magsaysay ordered foreign flights stopped in favor of rural development program.

The Philippines would like to secure rights for direct flights to four major cities, such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. India is even willing to open 18 minor cities as well, said the CAB executive director.

The country's air panel would try to convince India to allow fifth and sixth freedom rights to carriers to make the route more viable.

A fifth freedom allows carriers to fly to an intermediate point between India and the Philippines, and sixth freedom is a third destination after a direct flight.

In the 56-year-old agreement, flying to intermediate points like Bangkok, Hong Kong and Burma is allowed.

Monetary Board raps Equitable PCIBank

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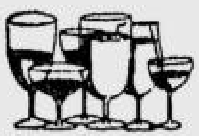

Victor C. Agustin

EQUITABLE PCIBank has been rebuked by the Bangko Sentral for violating a 1999 directive to dispose of the 10-percent "treasury" shares being held by its investment bank subsidiary, EBC Investments.

The central bank's policy-making Monetary Board issued a June 23 resolution saying EBC Investments had been keeping the 10-percent block "in violation" of a 1999 Monetary Board resolution directing the investment bank to dispose of the shares within two years, or by 2001.

The 10-percent block represented bank funds used by the family of Equitable PCIBank chair Antonio Go, in partnership with the Erap-era SSS and GSIS, to acquire a much larger bank, PCIBank.

Beginning last year, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System have demanded that the 10-percent block be voted pro-rata among the major shareholders, not just the Gos appropriating the block to maintain their "artificial majority," but the Gos have maintained that the EBC Investments board is free to vote the block to whichever nominees they choose.

In view of the continued failure to sell the 10-percent block, the Monetary Board also ordered EBC Investments to immediately provide "adequate valuation reserves," in view of the shares having lost almost 50 percent in value since their 1999 acquisition.

Per its own calculations, Equitable PCIBank would suffer a P3.4-billion capital impairment should EBC Investments be forced to mark to market the 10-percent block.

"The cost method in accounting for its investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in the separate (parent company) financial statements is expected to decrease both the carrying amounts of these investments and total capital funds by P3.4 billion equivalent to the undistributed retained earnings of the investees, net of accumulated equity earnings of subsidiaries acquired prior to the parent company's merger with PCIBank, and other equity adjustments," Equitable PCIBank said in its just released 2004 annual report.

The Monetary Board also directed EBC Investments chair/president Sergio Naranjilla Jr. to explain why the investment bank should not be subjected to administrative sanctions for continued failure to comply with the 1999 divestment order.

Hosanna for Manila Bank

AFTER initial hesitation, Manila Bank president Benjamin Yambao has prevailed on his chair, Luis Puyat, for the bank to acquire the minority shareholdings of the heirs of the late Senate President Gil Puyat.

According to the grapevine, Yambao is meeting today with Rev. Mo. Maria Joanna Paula Pia Maneja, local head of the Franciscan Sister of the Immaculate, whose order has been named the charitable beneficiary of the Puyat estate for its Manila Bank holdings.

The sale proceeds of the Puyat shareholdings, a little over P10 million, would go to fi-

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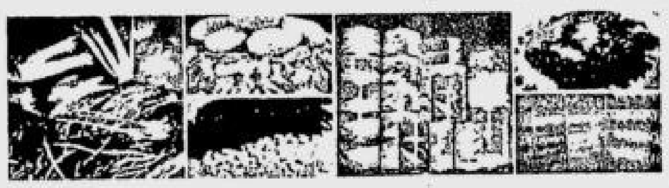

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MB_ANT002 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 233 sqm
Lot 11 Blk. 4 Gladiola St., Tres Hermanas Subd.
MIN BID PRICE: P 652,400.00

MB_ANT003 RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 2,694 sqm. F.A. 254 sqm.
Lot 1065-E-1 Gladiola St., Behind Tres Hermanas Subd.
MIN BID PRICE: P 2,424,600.00

MB_ANT005 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 600 SQM
Lot 7 Blk. 3 Taktak Road, Hinulugan Taktak Subd.
MIN BID PRICE: P 900,000.00

MB_ANT006 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 300 SQM
Lot 4 Blk. 11 Michigan Bend, Palos Verdes Garden Heights
Min. Bid Price: P 655,000.00

MB_ANT007 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,375 SQM
Lot 7 Blk. 4 Assumption Subd., Bgy. San Isidro
MIN BID PRICE: P 1,931,500.00

MB_ANT008 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 422 SQM
Lot 29 Blk. 7 Apo and Banahaw St., Town & Country Hills, Bgy. Inarawan
MIN BID PRICE: P 1,266,000.00

MB_ANT012 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 196 SQM
Lot 1 Blk. 3 Poblacion & Bgy. Dela Paz
MIN BID PRICE: P 529,200.00

BATANGAS
MB_BAT021 RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 248 SQM F.A. 781 SQM
Lot 4 Subd., Road Lobrin Subd., Bgy. Sico Lipa City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,600,000.00

MB_BAT022 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 240 SQM
Lot 6 Blk. 6 MIRACLE HEIGHTS, Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 672,000.00

MB_BAT023 COMML BLDG.
L.A. 1,140.50 SQM F.A. 248.67 SQM
Lot 4 Blk. 2 Bgy. Balintawak North, Lipa City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 16,000,000.00

MB_BAT028 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,001 SQM
Lot 1979 -N Bgy. Sambat Ilaya, Batangas City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 800,000.00

MB_BAT029 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,007 SQM
Lot 1979 -P Bgy. Sambat Ilaya, Batangas City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 805,600.00

MB_BAT030 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 588 SQM F.A. 452 SQM
Lot 9-C-3 Marasigan St., Bgy. 4 Poblacion, Calaca
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,650,000.00

MB_BAT031 ONE STOREY RSDL
L.A. 1,500 SQM F.A. 150 SQM
Lot 18568-D Southwestern Line of Provincial Rd., Bgy. Banay-Banay, Lipa City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,000,000.00

MB_BAT032 COMML BLDG
L.A. 104 SQM F.A. 294 SQM
Lot 14-A No. 094 F. Carreon St., Bgy. Namuco, Rosario
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,335,000.00

MB_BAT033 BEACH RESORT
L.A. 1,074 SQM F.A. 512 SQM
Provincial Road, Brgy. Solo Mabini,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,500,000.00

BULACAN
MB_BLN034 RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 252 SQM F.A. 521 SQM
No. 12 Corinthian St., Mt. Carmel Subd., Bgy. Camalig, Meycauayan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000.00

MB_BLN035 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 468 SQM F.A. 390 SQM
Lot 21 Blk. 15 Aquamarine cor. Beryl & Cystal Sts. Citation Homes Subd., Bgy. Bagbaguin, Mecauayan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,300,000.00

MB_BLN036 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 710 SQM F.A. 632 SQM
Lot 4520-J Riverside Road (Bgy. Road) Bgy. Langka, Meycauayan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,995,000.00

MB_BLN038 IND'L / RSDL LOT
L.A. 18,611 SQM
Lot 3833-C-5 Bgy. Loma De Gato, Marilao
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,583,300.00

MB_BLN042 FARM W/ PIGPEN
L.A. 52,117 SQM. F.A. 6908.14 SQM
Lot 1-B-4 Tubigan Rd. Bgy. Gaya-Gaya, San Jose Del Monte City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 44,650,000.00

MB_BLN043 RSDL BLDG. W/WAREHOUSE
L.A. 7921 SQM F.A. 5127SQM
Lot 3 No. 55 Bagbaguin Road Cor. M. Altaveros St., Bgy. Bagbaguin, Mecauyan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 23,000,000.00

MB_BLN044 RSDL BLDG
L.A. 813 SQM F.A. 291.2 SQM
Lot 2844-B-4 Manatal-Bagbaguin Bgy. Road, cor. An Unnamed Road, Bgy. Bagbaguin, Pandi
MIN. BID PRICE: P 774,000.00

MB_BLN045 COMML LOT
L.A. 2400 SQM
lot 5-B-3 MacArthur H-way, Bgy. Bancal, Meycauayan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 28,000,000.00

MB_BLN047 LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 1000 SQM
Lot 1-B Bancal Rd., Bgy. Bangkal, Meycauayan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000.00

MB_BLN049 RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 378 SQM F.A. 170 SQM
Lot 1 Blk. 18 Matatag St. cor. Unnamed Bgy. Road Bgy. Sapang Palay
MIN. BID PRICE: P 756,000.00

MB_BLN052 1 STOREY RSDL BLDG.
L.A 480 SQM F.A 66 SQM
Lot 15 Blk. 1 Provincial Road, Brgy. Sta. Clara, Sta. Maria
MIN. BID PRICE: P 820,500.00

MB_BLN053 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 250 SQM
Lot 38 Blk. 16 No. 147 Dama De Noche St. Alido Heights Subd., Malolos
MIN. BID PRICE: P 750,000.00

MB_BLN054 RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 600 SQM F.A. 159 SQM
Lot 505-C Interior Mc Arthur H-way Bgy. Bunlo, Bocaue
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,310,000.00

MB_BLN056 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 1506 SQM
Lot 28 Blk. 1 Kings Villa Homes Kabesang Imo St., Bgy. Lawa, Obando
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,230,000.00

MB_BLN060 COMMERCIAL BLDG.
L.A 924 SQM F.A. 596 SQM.
Lot 2 National Rd.., Bgy. Sto. Cristo, Pulilan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,772,000.00

CAINTA, RIZAL
MB_RZ016 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 389 SQM
Lot 12 Blk. 8 Colorado & Bishop St. Brookside Hills Subd.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 972,500.00

CAMARINES NORTE / SUR
MB_CMS070 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 480 SQM
17 Jamaica St., Monterey Subd., Concepcion Pequena, Naga City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,200,000.00

MB_CMS073 RSDL COMML BLDG.
L.A. 600 SQM F.A. 306 SQM
Lot 1 Rizal Ave., Bgy. Plandel, Jose Panganiban
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,400,000.00

MB_CMS074 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 570 SQM
Lot 4 Blk. 4 Socorro St. Villa Sorabella Subd., Bgy. Concepcion Grande, Naga City
MIN BID PRICE: P 940,500.00

MB_CMS077 COMML BLDG.
L.A 1652 SQM F.A. 421 SQM
Lot 4 R. Padilla Sr. Boulevard Cor. Arriola St. South Poblacion
MIN BID PRICE: P 5,350,000.00

CAVITE
MB_CVT081 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 1000 SQM
Lot Bk. 6 Lot 12 Uniwide Coastal City Subd. Brgy. Timalan, Naic
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000.00

MB_CVT084 VACANT RSDL LOT
L..A 260 SQM
Blk. 7 Lot 54 Palermo St., Town & Country West Bay Molino
MIN. BID PRICE: P 682,500.00

MB_CVT085 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 467 SQM
Bonifacio Loop Ayala Southvale, Phase I-B, Molino, Bacoor
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,670,000.00

MB_CVT086 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 563 SQM F.A. 170sqm SQM
Lot C Tirona H-way corner Unnamed Road J.S. Vile Subd., Bgy. Habay, Bacoor
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,000,000.00

MB_CVT087 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 4,905 SQM
Bgy. Road, Bgy. Lalan, First Silang,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,000,000.00

MB_CVT089 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 360 SQM F.A. 331.50sqm
No. 512 Nuestra Señora Del Pilar St. Justinville II Subd., Bgy. Palico, Imus
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,757,500.00

MB_CVT090 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 680 SQM
Teresita St., Stateland Subd., Bgy. Buenavista I, Gen Trias,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 765,000.00

ISABELA
MB_IBL100 WAREHOUSE BLDG.
L.A. 5,927 SQM F.A. 260 SQM
5327-B-2 Maharlika H-way, Bgy. Batal, Santiago City,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,400,000

MB_IBL102 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 2,341 SQM F.A. 450 SQM
Lot B--9-C Bgy. Malapiat, Benito Soliven
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,466,000.00

MB_IBL103 RSDL LOT W/ WAREHOUSE BLDG.,
L.A 6,379 SQM F.A 460 SQM
Lot 28 Bgy. Malapiat, Benito Soliven,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,884,000.00

MB_IBL108 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 760 SQM
Lot 6-B-2 National Road, Centro Bgy. III, San Mateo
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,140,000.00

MB_IBL109 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 2,046 SQM
Lot 3793 No. 13 Ventura St. Cor. Maharlika H-way, Bgy. Sinsayon, Santiago City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,841,400.00

MB_IBL110 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,451 SQM
Lot 4897-B No. 13 Ventura St. Cor. Maharlika H-way Bgy. Sinsayon, Santiago City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,451,000.00

MB_IBL112 RICE LAND
L.A 2,486 SQM
Lot 469-A-2-C Mabini, Santiago City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 621,500.00

MB_IBL113 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 934 SQM
Lot 469-A-2-I-6 Mabini, Santiago City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 934,000.00

MB_IBL114 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 1,000 SQM
Lot 5380 -L-7-B Bgy. Road and Provincial Rd., Bgy. Rizal, Santiago City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 750,000.00

LAGUNA
MB_LGN115 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 212 SQM
Kahusayan St., Lot 1 Blk. 15, (road Lot 26 Pamana Homes), Bgy. Bucal, Calamba
MIN. BID PRICE: P 508,800.00

MB_LGN125 RSDL APRTMENT
L.A 488 SQM
Lot 1-F Spring Homes II Subd., Bgy. Bucal, Calamba
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,750,000.00

MB_LGN128 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 431 SQM
1-H-1 Naturesville Subd., Via Carben Subd. Bgy. Anos, Los Baños
MIN. BID PRICE: P 560,000.00

NUEVA ECIJA
MB_NE129 COMML BLDG
L.A 200 SQM F.A 360 SQM
Lot 1689-C-6-B-2-B-3-C-2 No. 596 Mabini St., Cabanatuan City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,000,000.00

MB_NE130 COMML BLDG
L.A 415 SQM F.A 996 SQM
Lot 1411-N No. 634 A & B, Paco Roman St., Cabanatuan City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,000,000.00

MB_NE131 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 489 SQM F.A.
Lot 6 blk. 11 Manito Ave., Kapitan Pepe Subd., Cabanatuan City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,750,000.00

MB_NE132 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 11,151SQM
Lot 747-I-2-C-3 Bgy. Kalikid, Fort Magsaysay Road, Kalikid Sur, Cabanatuan City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,787,750.00

MB_NE136 RSDL LOT W/ POULTRY HOUSES
L.A 9,265 SQM F.A 1,928 SQM
Lot 9-A Dike Road, Bgy. San Antonio, Cabiao
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,653,000.00

MB_NE137 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 850 SQM F.A. 431 SQM
Lot 1597-A Maharlika H-way Bgy. San Roque, Gapan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,500,000.00

MB_NE138 RICE MILL
L.A 1,347 SQM F.A. 500 SQM
Lot 2308-A Gapan-Olongapo Road, Bgy. San Nicolas, Gapan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,847,000.000

PANGASINAN
MB_PSN140 AGRICULTURAL LAND
L.A 24,540 SQM
Lot 7334 Provincial Road, Bgy. Carusucan, Norte Asingan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,875,750.00

MB_PSN141 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 442 SQM F.A. 140 SQM
No. 951 Green Valley Subd., Bgy. Malued, Dagupan City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,600,000.00

MB_PSN142 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 3,290 SQM F.A 64 SQM
Lot 7655-A Bonuan, Boquig, Dagupan City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000.00

MB_PSN143 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 3,000 SQM F.A. 192.25
Lot 2648-A Provincial Rd. Bgy. Dilan, Urdaneta City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,196,500.00

MB_PSN144 COMML APARTMENT
L.A 1,961 SQM F.A 136 SQM
Lot 640-A No. 23 Burgos St., Provincial Rd. Bgy. Bayaoas, Urdaneta City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,000,000.00

MB_PSN145 COMML APARTMENT
L.A 472 SQM F.A 223 SQM
Lot 800-B J.P. Rizal, Brgy., Bayaoas, Urdaneta City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,995,000.00

MB_PSN146 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A 3,569 SQM
Lot 7672-B Ayusip Road, Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,360,000.00

MB_PSN147 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 306 SQM F.A 320 SQM
Lot 632-B-3-A No. 17 J.P. Rizal St. Bgy. Bayaoas, Urdaneta City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,000,000.00

MB_PSN148 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 473 SQM F.A. 100 SQM
Lot B-31-I-8 Bgy. Libsong West, Lingayen,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,400,000.00

MB_PSN149 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 1,000 SQM F.A. 354.84 SQM
Lot 4-I-1 & 2 Don V. Quintans St., Bgy. Baranga Malasiqui
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,378,500.00

MB_PSN154 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 507 SQM F.A 237 SQM
Lot 1697 No. 22 Provincial Road Bgy. Tambac, Dagupan City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,500,000.00

QUEZON
MB_QP160 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 SQM F.A. 87.12 SQM
Lot 4 Blk. 17 Milagros St., Immaculada Concepcion Village, Bgy. Silangang Isabang, Lucena City
MIN. BID PRICE: P 750,000.00

MB_QP161 CMML/BLDG.
L.A 364 SQM F.A. 403 SQM
M.L. Quezon & E. Aguinaldo Sts., Poblacion, Gumaca
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,862,000.00

MB_QP162 LOTS W/ COMML WHOUSE BLDG.,
L.A. 1,325 SQM F.A. 1707.2 SQM
Lot 5 National Rd., Bgy. Wakas, Tayabas
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,191,000.00

MB_QP163 RSDL/BLDG.
L.A. 452 SQM F.A. 320 SQM
Lot 6637-A No. 26 Legaspi St., Poblacion Tayabas,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,292,500.00

MB_QP164 RSDL/BLDG.
L.A. 3,300 SQM F.A. 336 SQM
Lot 4570-C-2-D Provincial Road, Bgy. Wakas Tayabas,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,230,000.00

MB_QP165 HOUSE & LOT
F.A. 200 SQM F.A. 427 SQM
Lot 6726 -A No. 54 Legaspi St. Cor. M.H. del Pilar Sts. Poblacion Tayabas
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000.00

TAGAYTAY
MB_TGY166 RAW LAND
L.A. 1,600
Lot 10-A Barangay Iruhin (near Tagaytay Ridgeview Terraces)
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,800,000.00

MB_TGY167 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,669 SQM
Heroes Farm St., Bgy. Kabagal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,000,000.00

MB_TGY169 VACANT RSDL LOT
L.A. 554 SQM
along National Road, Bgy. Bagong Tubig
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,216,000.00

TARLAC
MB_TRC196 BUNGALOW
L.A 237 SQM F.A. 88.25 SQM
Lot 4831-H Perpetual Right of way (Macadam) Bgy. Salumague, Paniqui, Tarlac
MIN. BID PRICE: P 650,000.00

MB_TRC198 COMML BLDG.,
L.A. 2500 SQM F.A 2,638
Lot 3-B-8-C-1-A-2 Mac Arthur H-way Bgy. San Rafael, Tarlac
MIN. BID PRICE: P 22,000,000.00

MB_TRC199 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 688 SQM F.A. 177 SQM
Lot 20 Blk. 20 Mac Arthur H-way Bgy., San Roque & San Rafael, San Sebastian Vill.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,910,000.00

MB_TRC202 POULTRY HOUSES
L.A 18,392 SQM F.A. 7019 SQM
Lot no. 7071 Bgy. Tambungan, Camiling
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,200,000.00

MB_TRC203 POULTRY/BODEGA & OFFICE
L.A. 40,000 SQM F.A. 1102 SQM
Lot 1 Bgy. Cabugbugan, Sta. Ignacia,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,600,000.00

*Subject to bank approval. Properties and prices are subject to change without prior notice. The bank reserves the right to withdraw any property for whatever reason. Show money Php25,000 Cash/MC per property. All properties for sale are on "As is, where is" basis.

For more details, call THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS. at:
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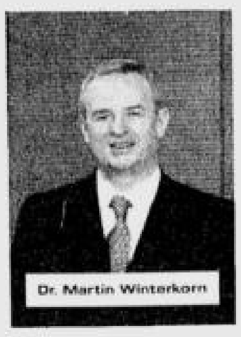
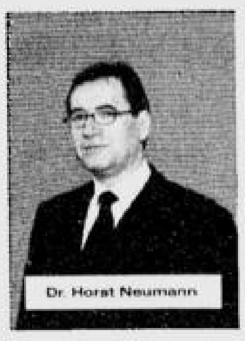
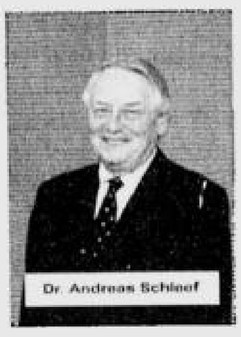
CELLPHONE NO.: 0921-6722888

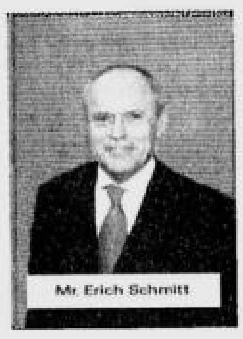
SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

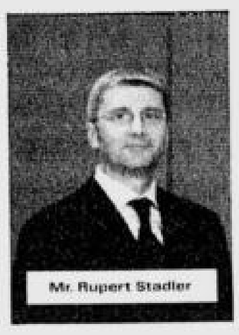
The following **Members of the Board of Management of Audi AG** and its **Area Sales Manager** were issued **Warrants of Arrest** by the Regional Trial Court of Alaminos City in Criminal Case No. 4824-A for **ESTAFA thru Falsification of Public Documents:**


Dr. Martin Winterkorn


Dr. Horst Neumann


Dr. Andreas Schleef


Mr. Erich Schmitt


Mr. Rupert Stadler

Dr. Jochem Heizmann

Mr. Ralph Weyler

Mr. Sunil Kaul

The above-cited AUDI AG Board Members and Area Sales Manager continuously **remain at large** and are now **considered fugitives** before the Philippine Courts of Law. Any information that will lead to their whereabouts and arrests would be greatly appreciated.

ATTY. PURITA HONTANOSAS-CORTES
Counsel for Auto Prominence Corporation
2nd Floor, APC Building
2326 Pasong Tamo Extension,Makati City

Makati Med wants doctors to infuse fresh capital

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MAKATI Medical Center is trying to raise a portion of the new capital it needs from the more than 700 doctors practicing in the hospital, the company's top official said.

The ailing hospital needs P100 million immediately to solve its cash problems and about P400 million more to improve its facilities.

Gabino Mendoza, president and chief executive of the Makati Med, said the hospital would prefer more doctors than businessmen to own the hospital. A little more than 100 doctors control about 40 percent of the hospital.

"We have a preference for more of our doctors putting in money. A million to P1.5 million would be a good size for each of them," he said.

Makati Med has 1.5 million outstanding shares worth P1,000 each. Mendoza said the company would issue new shares to accommodate new investors as it raises new capital.

About a third of the company is controlled by the Fores and Araneta families while a fourth is with the heirs of other founders.

Mendoza admitted that Makati Med had liquidity problems and was now asking banks to restructure P1.2 billion in loans. About P400 million in obligations are owed to suppliers.

Banks normally require borrowers to maintain a one-is-to-one ratio of current assets to current liabilities. But for every peso now of Makati Med's assets, it has P4 in liabilities.

Makati Med is asking banks to stretch out the maturity of the loans to 10 years from the current average of 6 years.

"The banks told us to look for fresh equity and they indicated we need at least P100 million. I'd like to raise P300 to P500 million," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said the hospital wanted to build a high-rise building on an adjacent empty lot being used as parking.

As part of the overall corporate restructuring, the ailing hospital elected a new set of directors two weeks ago.

The 11-member board would meet tomorrow to elect the chair, vice chair and even president. Mendoza said he came in last May only as an interim chief executive.

The new members of the board aside from Mendoza are Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel Pangilinan and former Philippine National Bank chair Francisco Dizon, Judy Araneta-Roxas and Cristina Antonio.

Cocktales

From page B5

nance the unfinished church in the Franciscan monastery in Carmen, Cebu.

Manila Bank chair Luis Puyat, whose relations with the Gil Puyat heirs have been strained, had initially balked at purchasing the Puyat block, but Yambao, according to the grapevine, eventually persuaded his chairman to allow the bank's retirement fund to acquire the block.

Less Insular, more cosmopolitan

INSULAR Life has done a wonderful job of bringing its 60s-era building Ayala Avenue building to the 21st century.

With its gleaming glass and steel cladding, the corner structure now looks like an even newer building than its post-Asian currency crisis neighbors Philamlife and Equitable towers.

What's more, Insular Life has now become pedestrian-friendlier with its wrap-around awnings, and a Jollibee in its ground floor doing a roaring trade.

To think that Insular Life CEO Vicente Ayllon nearly sold the land and the building to the Four Seasons hotel group, had not the currency crisis intervened and the luxury hotelier subsequently losing interest in the country.

Money-go-round

- DIMSUN N' Dumplings owner Andrew Masigan acquired one of the last Audi A4s from the disenfranchised dealer, Auto Prominence. The not-so-good news is, Masigan still could not use the 1.8-liter Quattro since buying it in May as it still does not yet have plate numbers, pending Auto Prominence getting customs/import clearance.
- Rockwell Club is considering boosting its membership perks and its lagging share price by acquiring a stake in the Boracay Terraces Resort. The only possible hiccup: the Boracay resort itself is in the midst of boardroom battle.

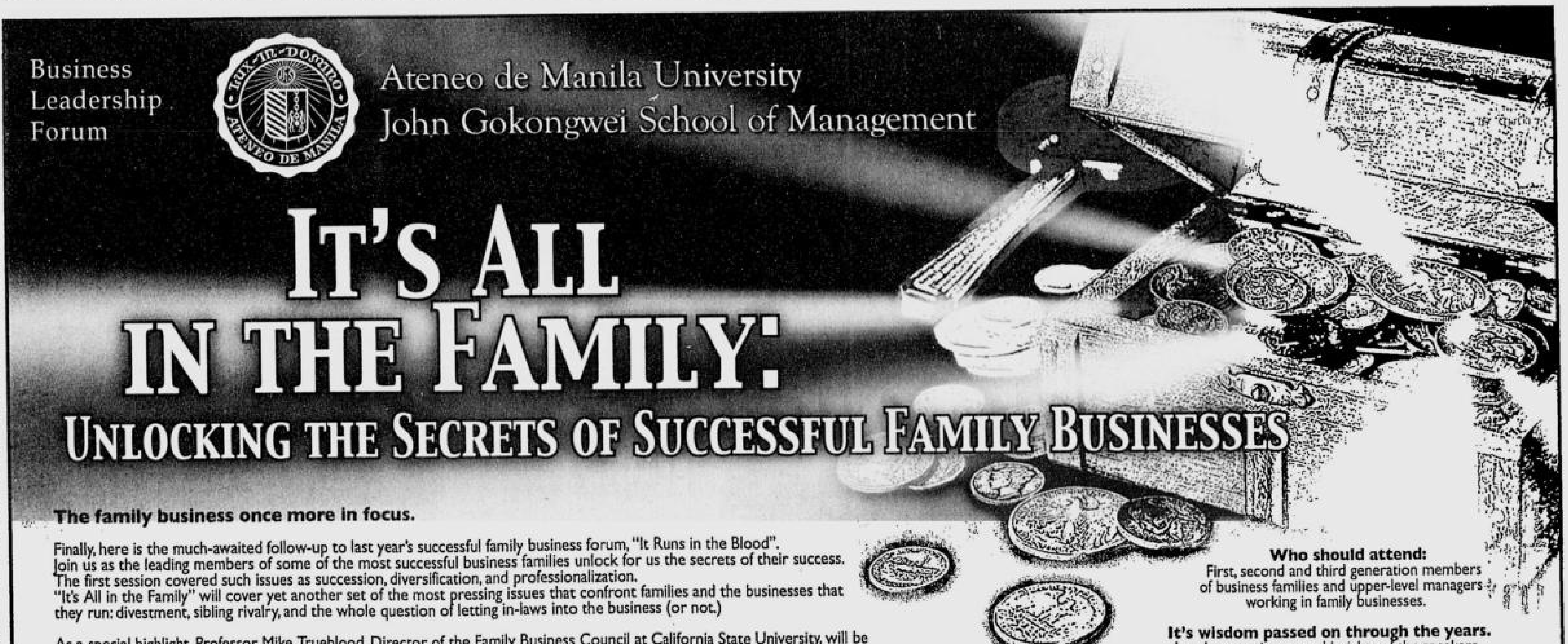
Heard through the grapevine

NOT CONTENT to just becoming a presiding chair, Unilab heiress Joy Campos-Hess has been quietly going around the country with Unilab CEO/president Carlos Ejercito visiting various Unilab offices, meeting rank-and-file and officers to strengthen the company's vision-mission ethic.

The French-speaking chair, for her part, had been told by friends to switch to a more corporate wardrobe, wear less or little make-up, and discard her fabulous bling-blings, at least during office hours. *(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

Business
Leadership
Forum

Ateneo de Manila University
John Gokongwei School of Management



IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY:

UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL FAMILY BUSINESSES

The family business once more in focus.

Finally, here is the much-awaited follow-up to last year's successful family business forum, "It Runs in the Blood". Join us as the leading members of some of the most successful business families unlock for us the secrets of their success. The first session covered such issues as succession, diversification, and professionalization. "It's All in the Family" will cover yet another set of the most pressing issues that confront families and the businesses that they run: divestment, sibling rivalry, and the whole question of letting in-laws into the business (or not.)

As a special highlight, Professor Mike Trueblood, Director of the Family Business Council at California State University, will be flying to the Philippines to participate in this Forum and share the best practices and lessons learned in the United States.

Seize this rare opportunity to find out how you can better manage the relationship between family and family business. Learn from the experiences and insights of our speakers. Discover the secrets that can help you to unlock your own future business success!

Who should attend:
First, second and third generation members of business families and upper-level managers working in family businesses.

It's wisdom passed on through the years.
Let the experiences and insights of the speakers testify on behalf of family businesses everywhere. Their nuggets of wisdom will guide you to bring even more success to your enterprise.

Made in America: Lessons and Best Practices from Successful US Family Businesses
Professor Mike Trueblood
*Director, **Family Business Council California State University, Fullerton Campus***

The U.S. has spawned a number of highly successful family businesses that have made it big in their respective markets. The Director of CSU's Family Business Council, Professor Mike Trueblood shares with us some of the best practices of American family businesses. Learn from his accumulated wealth of experience and see how you can adapt these practices to suit and benefit your own family situation.

Growing the Family, Growing the Business
Socorro Ramos
*Founder, **National Bookstore***

Family and business are two of the most important aspects of your life. Listen to the Philippines' 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year, founder of the National Bookstore chain, and matriarch of one of the most successful business families in the Philippines as she shares some of her insights on how to combine the heart of a parent and the mind of an entrepreneur to successfully rear both business and family.

Should In-laws be Out-laws?
Dennis Valdes
*President, **LexMedia***

Getting along with your in-laws is challenging enough for most people, without throwing the family business into the equation. Dennis Valdez is actively involved in the highly successful publishing business of his in-laws, the Prieto family behind the Philippine Daily Inquirer. He shares anecdotes and life lessons learned from working with his in-laws, and gives his own take on the question of whether or not in-laws should be allowed to work in the family business.

Sibling Revelry: Siblings in Business
Alfredo Go
*President, **LH Paragon Inc.***

Siblings running a family business together: a partnership made in heaven or a disaster waiting to happen? Sibling rivalry has reared its ugly head in many families, but not in the Penshoppe family, as brothers Bernie Liu and Alfredo Go pursue their road map for success. Discover Alfredo Go's views on the positive and negative aspects of working alongside someone he has known his whole life, and how they have managed to make sure that what could potentially become sibling rivalry has turned out instead to be sibling revelry.

Built to Last: Making sure that the family business endures
Juan Sebastian Nepomuceno III
*President, **Nepomuceno Realty Group of Companies***

Just what does it take to make a business last? Is it really inevitable that, as conventional wisdom goes, the third generation should run the family business into the ground? Now well into the third generation of their family and still going strong, the Nepomuceno group of companies based in Central Luzon is living proof that family businesses can be built to last. Mr. Chito Nepomuceno shares the business as well as family practices that have helped them to prosper where other family businesses have fallen apart.

The Art of Letting Go: Selling Off the Family Business
Rudy Arce
*Owner, **Arce Dairy***

When should we step back and say it is time to let go? Many of us can still remember the days when Selecta Ice Cream was the iconic product of the Arce family. What was the family thinking when they decided to sell their business to the RFM group of companies? What decision process did they pursue? Looking back now, what did they do right and what would they have done differently? Mr. Rudy Arce gives us a first-hand look at their painful decision to let go of their family business, and shares with us what he feels are the lessons to be learned from their experience.

Seminar Fee
Regular Rate: Php 4,500

For inquiries and reeservations, call 849-6911

Organized by the Ateneo de Manila's John Gokongwei School of Management, the Business Leadership Forum serves as a venue for business leaders and entrepreneurs to share experiences and best practices, and learn from each other's successes and failures. A model for partnership between management educator and business practitioner, it successfully blends theory and practice to offer a well-balanced program for the continued professional growth of the leaders of the Philippine business community.

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Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City July 15, 2005 *Friday 8am 5pm*

Ayala's computer program for public high schools

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

AYALA Foundation has an excellent program to install computers for the senior classes of public high schools all over the country.

Say what you will about the quality of public education, but none of the neighboring countries comes near to our infrastructure.

In school year 2003-2004, the enrollment in public and private schools reached 21.68 million (about 25 percent of our population) and more than the population of Australia. College enrollment was 2.43 million, about the entire population of Singapore.

But, in this highly competitive world, there is a crying need to make our high school graduates computer literate and provide them access to the wide, wide world of the Internet.

Fortunately for the Philippines, most of the 4,538 private high schools all over the country do not have this problem.

More than five years ago, the departments of Education (DepEd), Science and Technology (DSOT), and Trade and Industry (DTI) set up programs to provide computers and basic computer literacy to public high schools. These computers have either become obsolete, or are no longer operational. Besides, very few were equipped with the necessary hardware for basic Internet access.

Computer laboratories

Over two years ago, a DTI program installed computer laboratories in 2,096 public high schools. The main aim was to provide computer literacy, not Internet literacy. Most of the computers are still in working condition and provide a platform on which to build Internet access and literacy.

Today, 3,347, or 62 percent of the total 5,443 public high schools, are without computers.

Since the Commonwealth era, the DepEd budget has always been bigger than that of national defense. Today, this is truly a remarkable statistic, considering the rebellions of the NPA, MILF and Abu Sayyaf, not to mention the war against terrorism.

But there is never enough money for public educational system. And, sadly, DepEd just does not have the money to install computer laboratories in all public high schools.

In 2001, Ayala Foundation launched its Youth Tech program to provide Internet connectivity. With the help of such organizations like Intel and Foundation for IT Education and Development (FIT-ED), the program also provided basic teacher training for both computer and Internet literacy.

By end of 2004, Youth Tech managed to connect a total of 170 public high schools. In 2004, a consortium of 28 private corporations and foundations called ConnectEd.ph was organized by the Makati Business Club and managed to wire 80 schools. The total of 250 schools barely scratches the surface.

Gilas program

Now, Ayala Foundation has launched Gilas (Gearing-Up Internet Literacy and Access for Students). The program was conceived by a group of private sector leaders to raise the ante and cover the entire system of 5,433 public high schools.

Gilas will directly benefit senior public high school students, which, in school year 2003-2004 totaled 958,952. With proper management, the computer laboratories could benefit not just the rest of the high school student community, but also the parent and teacher communities.

The current estimate of the cost of connecting schools that already have existing laboratories is P135,000. Schools that do not have computer laboratories will need an additional P300,000.

This means a total cost of P701 million for the connectivity portion. Providing the additional PCs to complete the program will cost about P1 billion.

But in areas where telecom companies will provide the Internet connectivity free of charge for one year, the package can cost as low as P100,000.

Massive intervention by the private sector is needed. Civic organizations like the Rotary, Lions, Jaycees and Kiwanis can pitch in. Parent-Teacher associations should be willing to help. Above all, private corporations, which need to hire high school graduates who are computer literate, should throw in their vast resources.

Finally, every congressman should be more than happy to divert a part of his pork barrel to wire up all the public high schools in his district.

You want to know more about Gilas? Please call up Ayala Foundation and ask for Vicky Garchitorena or Luigi Bernas. I guarantee it will be a most interesting chat.

DOF to look into estate tax payments

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would look into the remittance of estate and capital gains taxes by the public over the past 10 years, saying the government was losing millions in revenues from non-payment of these taxes.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the Bureau of Internal Revenue only collected a "measly" P500 million in estate taxes and P700 million in capital gains taxes in 2003. The tax collection does not reflect the true volume of transactions, he said.

"The figures are not reasonable and very far from the truth. Over a million Filipinos die every year, and the estate tax collection meant that each individual only paid about P500," Purisima said in a speech before members of the Philippine Business Leaders Forum last week.

Estate tax has various rates ranging from 5 to 20 percent, while capital gains tax has a 6-percent rate.

Provincial and city treasurers of the Philippines, which earlier proposed a data-sharing scheme with the BIR to strengthen their anti-tax evasion program, agreed with the assumption that the government was losing huge revenues from non-payment of capital gains and estate taxes.

Purisima said the DOF and the BIR would review the collection of estate and capital gains taxes in the last 10 years, and match the data with the actual amount of transferred properties during the period.

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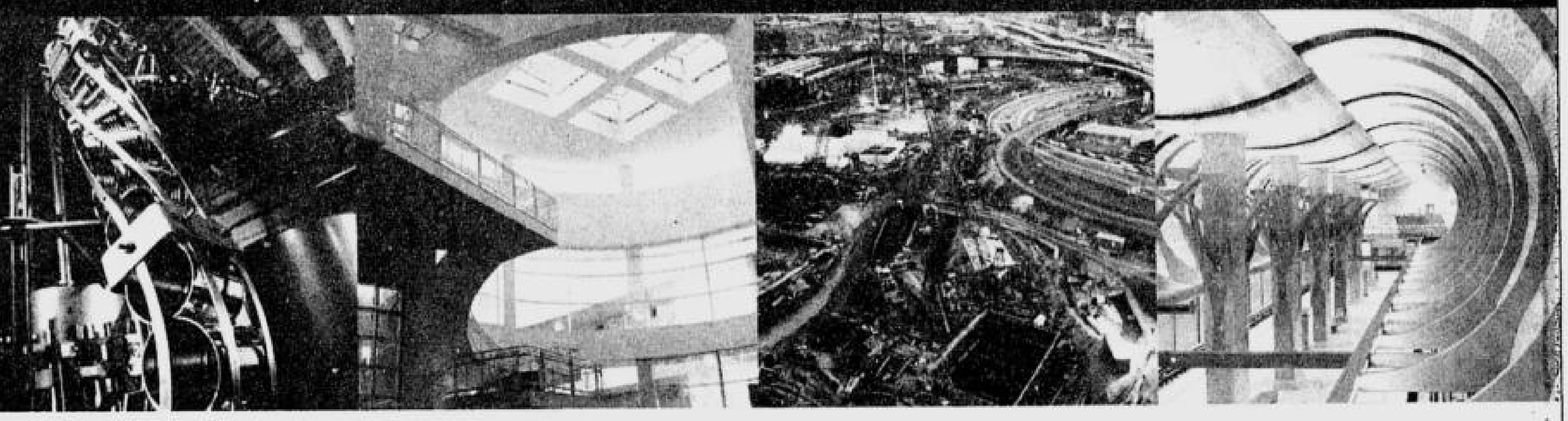

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Programme Overview

8.30am		Registration starts
9.30am	- 12.00pm	Opening, Keynote address and AutoCAD 2006 launch
12.30pm	- 4.00pm	Manufacturing Solution breakout
12.30pm	- 3.00pm	Building Solution breakout
12.30pm	- 4.30pm	Infrastructure Solution breakout
12.30pm	- 3.30pm	Media & Entertainment Solution breakout
8.30am	- 5.30pm	Exhibition

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DMCI to team up with Marubeni

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CONSTRUCTION firm DMCI Holdings Inc. is teaming up with Japanese conglomerate Marubeni Corp. and investment bank Macquarie Group to strengthen its bid to acquire debt-ridden Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Informed sources said in an interview that DMCI was in advanced discussions with its prospective foreign partners, who have expressed interest to take part in the takeover of the water utility company.

DMCI is looking to own majority of Maynilad.

Should it progress in its bid, DMCI is also keen on acquiring the 16-percent stake held by French water utility Ondeo Philippines in the operator of the west zone concession.

DMCI is interested in buying out Ondeo, now called Lyonnaise Asia Water (Holdings) Pte. Ltd., under Maynilad's approved rehabilitation plan, which will result in a possible takeover of Maynilad.

Sources said DMCI was setting aside $27 million in capital from internally generated funds required under the rehabilitation plan. DMCI, which owns 60 percent of coal mining firm Semirara Mining Corp., is expected to generate P1.5 billion in cash from its equity stake in the mining company.

It also churns out P1 billion a year from its housing business and another P200 million from its construction businesses.

It has also raised P1 billion from the recent sale of shares in Semirara.

Benpres Holdings Corp., the flagship company of the Lopez Group, meanwhile said it would sell all its shares in Maynilad, reflecting a write-off of its P3.06-billion equity and P621 million in advances made to Maynilad under the rehabilitation plan approved by the Quezon City trial court.

The ownership of Maynilad will also be transferred back to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, which will own 84 percent, Benpres said in an earlier disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000	1,000,000
Alta Vista Corp.	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	Pls. Call	630,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	180,000	-
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	-
Club Filipino	110,000	-
Club Filipino De Cebu	-	150,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	190,000/250,000*/Pls. Call**	Pls. Call
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	70,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	350,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	11,500,000	-
Manila Golf Individual	11,400,000	-
Manila Polo	-	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	400,000	370,000/680,000*
Makati Sports Club	200,000	190,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	230,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/320,000*	150,000/350,000**
Puerto Azul	80,000	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/230,000**	180,000**
Riviera Sports	45,000	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	280,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/C**	70,000/180,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,275,000/1,500,000*	1,100,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	730,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	650,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	240,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,500,000	-

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	Please Call	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	50,000
Camp John Hay	180,000	-
Canlubang	500,000	450,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	70,000
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	110,000	100,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Forest Hills "A"	130,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Luisita Golf	350,000	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	180,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	380,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	680,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	330,000
Metroclub "A"	130,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	130,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	300,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	250,000	180,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	180,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	210,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	280,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	320,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	-
Sta. Elena "B"	1,500,000	1,350,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	620,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	500,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	240,000	200,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,300,000

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Canyon Woods	125K	100K
Capitol Hills "A"	80K	-
Celebrity Sports Club	115K	-
Club Filipino	90K	-
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	190K	-
Forest Hills Golf Club (Individual)	100K	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	180K	-
Manila Golf Club (Corp.)	-	please call
Manila Golf Club (Individual)	-	please call
Manila Polo Club	please call	2.150M
Manila Southwoods "A"	370K	please call
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	690K
Manila Yacth Club	330K	-
Mimosa Ind.	-	140K
Mimosa C3	350K	330K
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	150K	-
Riviera Golf Club "B"	-	150K
Rockwell Club	280K	-
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	80K
Spa & Lodge	500K	-
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.3M	-
Sta. Elena Golf Club "B"	-	1.4M
Subic Bay Yacht Club	100K	-
Tagaytay Higlands	750K	-
Tagaytay Midlands	-	650K
Tower Club (Ind.)	300K	-
Valley Golf Club	-	230K
Wack Wack Golf Club	please call	8M

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(As of July 1, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	357,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	48.5	47.5	48	862,900
China Banking Corp.	770	775	770	775	310
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.51	470,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	49	49.5	37,200
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	21,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29.5	28	28	1,447,700
Philippine National Bank	43	43	42	42	37,000
Security Bank Corp.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.75	15,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	2,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	262.5	262.5	262.5	262.5	150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	190,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1860	1860	1860	1860	90
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	73,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	2,271,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	805	800	800	21,560
Ipeople Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	37,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.048	0.045	0.048	1,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.9	17,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.8	3,151,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1615	1615	1580	1590	331,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.014	0.016	48,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	1,000
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	22	21.75	22	319,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	1,558,000
Petron Corp.	2.95	3	2.9	2.9	3,087,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.72	1.72	129,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	370,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	852,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,139,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	5,160,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	2,619,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	64,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30	89,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29	29	29	92,600
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.5	31,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	60	59	60	660,800
San Miguel Corp. B	93.5	94	93.5	94	31,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	315	315	300	300	484,910
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	83,000,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	500,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	4,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.9	420,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.98	7,300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	220,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.44	2.55	2.42	2.42	410,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.4	7	6.4	7	969,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	45.5	45	45	546,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.35	21,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	47,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.26	4,253,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	9,070,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,000,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	1,763,190
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	1,200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	600,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	6,125,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	605,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	16,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	210,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	4,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.6	4,902,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.88	230,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	500,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.185	2,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	4,080,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	10,428,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.26	2.2	2.2	70,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	23,400,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	1,040,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,678,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	16,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	273,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	4,070,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	3,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	22,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	40,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.92	1,190,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	27	26	26.5	428,800
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	150,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,000

Investors seen . . .

From page B1

Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at fund manager ING Investment Management Philippines, said investors were starting to price in a possible removal of President Arroyo from office.

"The market is down due to increasing political uncertainties. Investor fears of a possible regime change is now being priced in by the market," Garcia said. He added that the market has not fully discounted a regime change scenario.

Garcia also said rising inflation might slow down consumer spending that, in turn, could hit corporate earnings.

"Firms will be forced to absorb higher input costs," Garcia added.

Proceso Mendoza, associate vice president of BDO Trust, said the market would continue to manifest its weakness last week not only due to the political uncertainty but because of oil price increases. "All these factors are taking their toll on the stock market."

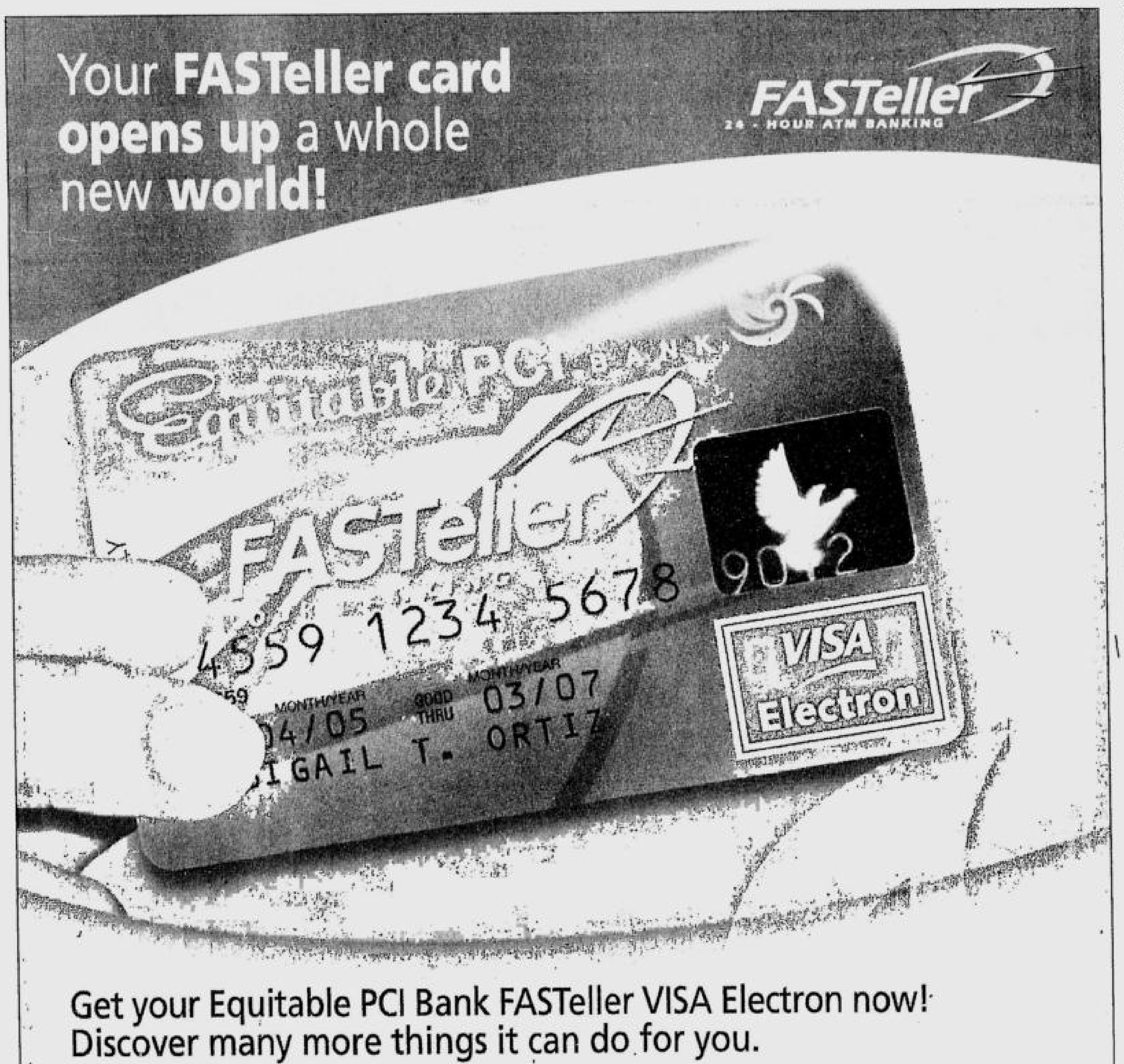
Mendoza said the strategy for investors was to remain defensive at this time or buy blue chip issues.

Further weighing on the market was a US Federal Reserve move raising interest rates by a quarter percentage point.

"It was the ninth time (since) the past year that the Federal Open Market Committee voted to hike the fed-funds rate. With inflation still a major concern, the Fed warned in its accompanying statement that future increases were a possibility. The rate hike was not a surprise, given that many Fed speakers had dropped strong hints that the central bank would increase rates again in June. But some had hoped that the Fed would drop strong hints that the tightening cycle will end soon," Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc. said. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

CURRENCIES

July 1, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.826173	1.000000	56.1770
Japan	Yen	0.007451	0.009019	0.5067
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480420	1.791900	100.6636
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106311	0.128679	7.2288
Switzerland	Franc	0.644642	0.780275	43.8335
Canada	Dollar	0.674317	0.816193	45.8513
Singapore	Dollar	0.490368	0.593542	33.3434
Australia	Dollar	0.629034	0.761383	42.7722
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.191499	2.652590	149.0145
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220307	0.266660	14.9802
Brunei	Dollar	0.488918	0.591786	33.2448
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000103	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019990	0.024196	1.3593
UAE	Dirham	0.224944	0.272272	15.2954
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210400	67.9966
Argentina	Peso	0.286120	0.346320	19.4552
Brazil	Real	0.350296	0.423998	23.8189
Denmark	Kroner	0.134247	0.162493	9.1284
India	Rupee	0.019014	0.023015	1.2929
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217443	0.263193	14.7854
Mexico	New Peso	0.076889	0.093067	5.2282
New Zealand	Dollar	0.575009	0.695991	39.0987
Norway	Kroner	0.126549	0.153175	8.6049
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013881	0.016801	0.9438
South Africa	Rand	0.124143	0.150263	8.4413
Korea	Won	0.000800	0.000968	0.0544
Sweden	Kroner	0.105907	0.128190	7.2013
Syria	Pound	0.015915	0.019264	1.0822
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026112	0.031606	1.7755
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000385	0.000466	0.0262



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BOI to draw up perks for non-priority investments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments is set to finalize the incentives guidelines for sectors not included investments in the 11 priority areas under the 2005 Investments Priorities Plan, Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said.

Hernandez, who is also BOI managing head, said determining the limits to incentives was one of the issues that the guidelines covering non-priority sectors would address.

Full incentives under the IPP include tax holidays, duty-free importation of capital goods and other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

"For instance, BOI wants to determine whether investments in these sectors would be entitled to the same number of years for income tax holiday as with the priority sectors," he explained. "Or if they would be entitled to less years, or none at all, the BOI is considering these options."

Another issue is whether projects on cellular mobile telephone systems would be required to have installations in rural areas, where it is less attractive for investors to do so.

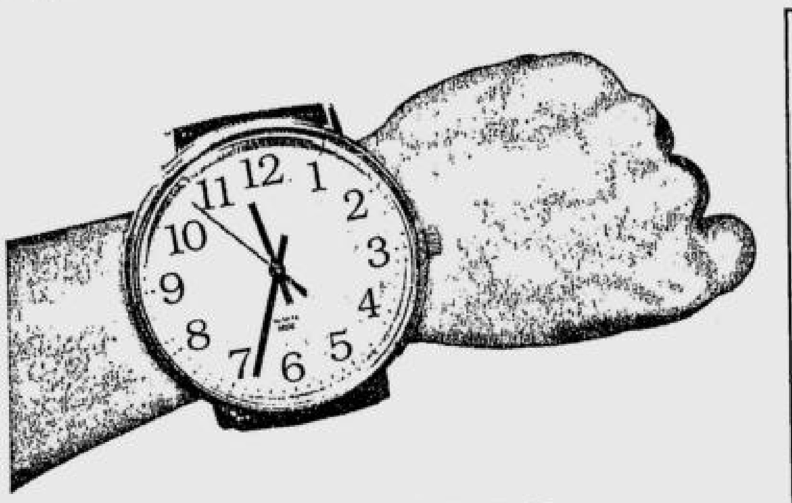
Also, Hernandez said the BOI was working with the National Telecommunications Commission on issues related to incentives applicable to the telecommunications sector with the advent of 3G technology.

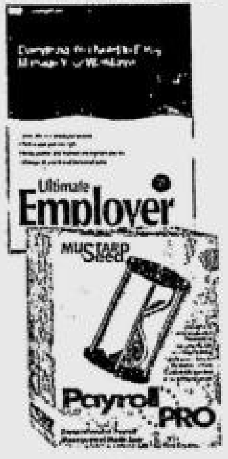
The 11 priority investment areas include agri-business; healthcare and wellness products and services; information and communications technology; electronics; motor vehicle products; energy; infrastructure; tourism; shipbuilding/shipping; jewelry; and fashion garments.

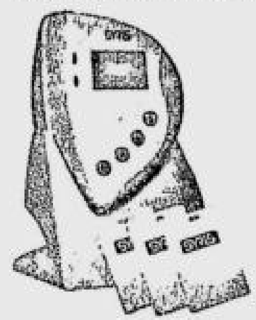
Qualified for limited incentives include investments meant to support businesses involved in the 11 preferred areas and mandatory inclusions—called industry clusters—and modernization activities in all the investment areas.

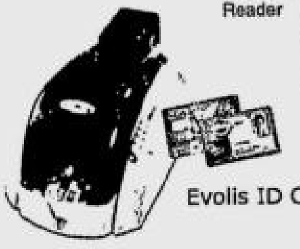
Covered by mandatory inclusion are industrial tree plantations; iron and steel projects; exploration, mining, quarrying and processing of minerals; publication or printing of books or textbooks; and refining, storage, marketing and distribution of petroleum products.

In May, Malacañang approved the 2005 IPP, which includes export-oriented businesses engaged in 11 investment areas identified in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.









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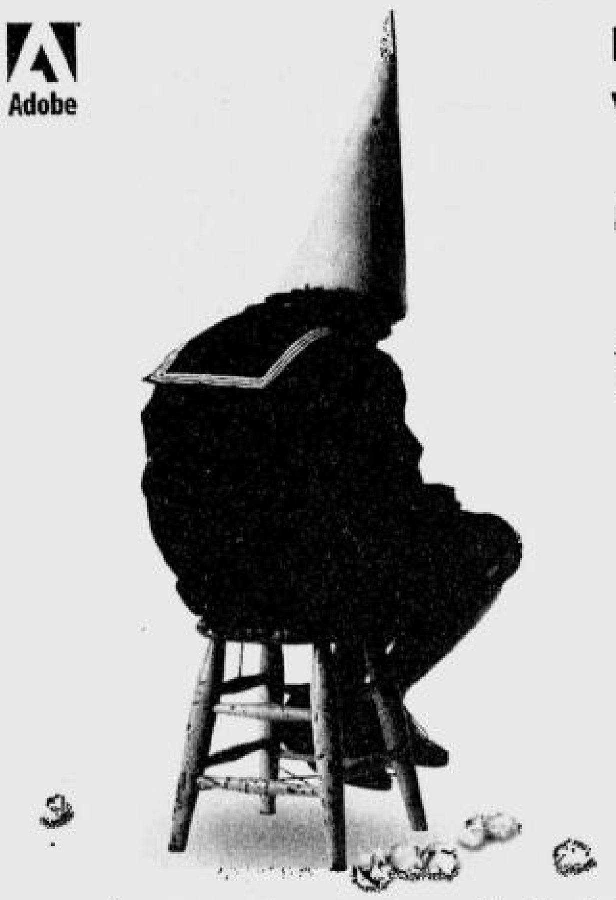

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9.30am – 12.00pm	Adobe® Photoshop® CS2 and Adobe® GoLive® CS2
12.00pm – 12.15pm	Partners' Presentation
	Break for Lunch*
2.00pm – 4.30pm	Adobe® InDesign® CS2 and Adobe® Illustrator® CS2
4.30pm – 4.45pm	Partners' Presentation

*Tea & coffee will be provided. However, delegates need to make own arrangements for lunch.

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Domestic liquidity up 12.2% to 2.18T

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEMAND for money in the country surged in May as domestic liquidity posted a double-digit growth from a year ago amid strong foreign portfolio investment inflows that, in turn, shored up the banks' foreign assets.

Amando Tetangco Jr., Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officer-in-charge, reported that the domestic liquidity, or m3, rose by 12.2 percent to P2.18 trillion, an increase from the 11.8 percent annual expansion recorded in April.

On a monthly basis, domestic liquidity rose by 1.4 percent in May, a turnaround from the 0.2 percent contraction of the previous month.

Domestic liquidity, or m3, is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

An increase in M3 is usually attributed to the continued expansion in the net foreign assets (NFA) of the monetary system and the improvement in the level of domestic credits to both the public and private sectors.

The steady growth in the NFA, in turn, hinges on the increase in the foreign assets of the monetary system, mainly in the form of investments in foreign currency-denominated securities by banks and the BSP.

In addition, the seasonal inflow of dollars—such as the remittances of overseas Filipino workers which are sold to the banking system—also helps boost the NFA position.

Tetangco said the broad stability of the peso against the US dollar during the period had helped shore up the country's foreign exchange inflows.

Meanwhile, public sector credits grew by 5.6 percent in May amid strong demand for government securities by banks and investors.

Private sector lending likewise rose by 4.3 percent for the month as the overall pace of bank lending activity picked up.

DOF to tap foreign lenders for its refinancing program

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance hopes that the debt-ridden government may save about $150 million a year once the DOF embarks on a refinancing program with foreign multilateral and bilateral lenders.

The program, under which creditors would refinance the Philippines' maturing obligations if the country would achieve a marked improvement in its fiscal position, has already been brought to the attention of multilateral agencies, including the World Bank, said Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

By borrowing from multilateral and bilateral agencies, instead of the commercial credit market, the government could save a huge amount because the agencies tend to offer a much cheaper borrowing cost.

Finance officials also expected to generate huge savings if the credit agencies themselves would source some of the loan requirements of the country.

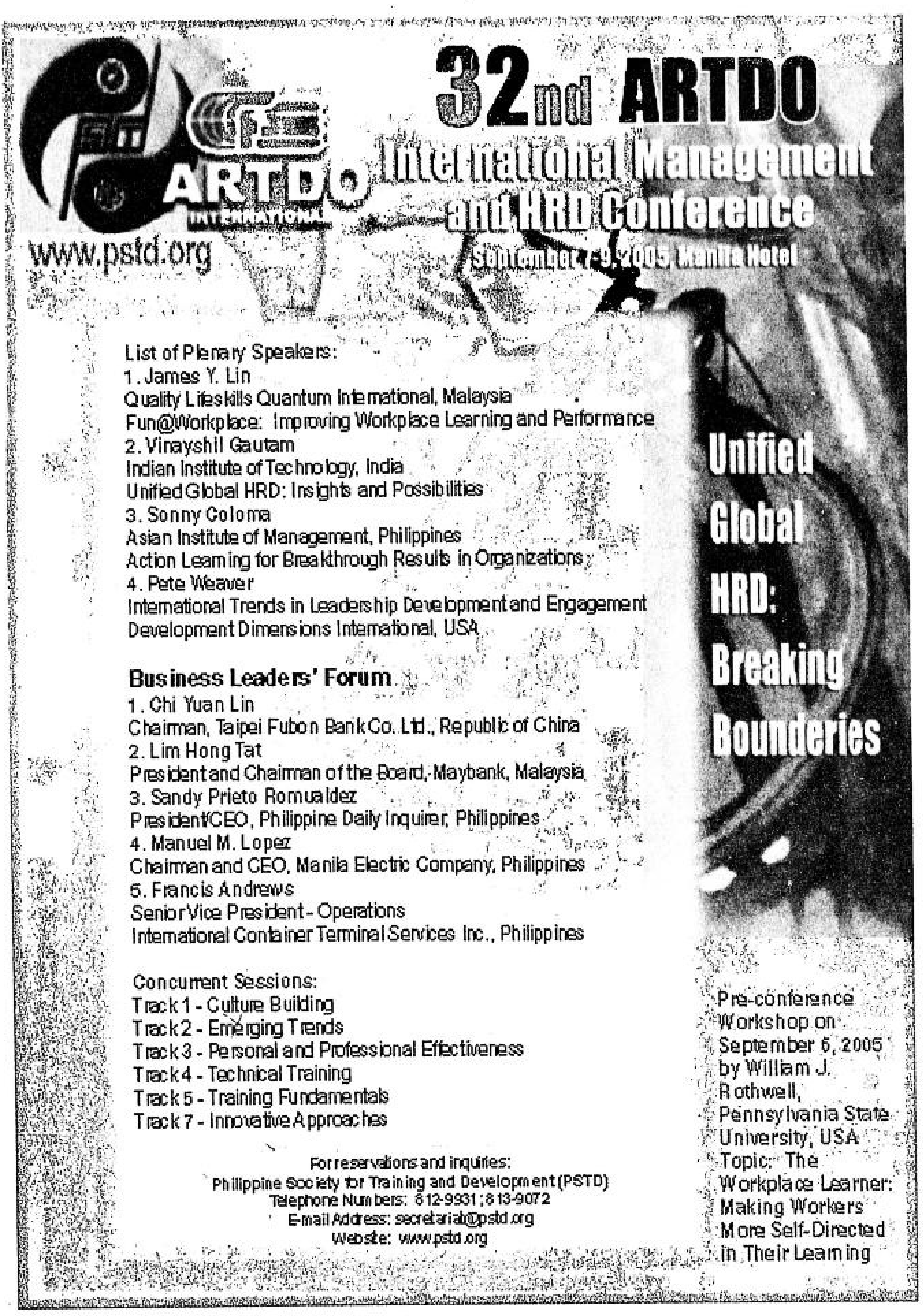
The officials said the credit could access the market at much cheaper rates.

"We need to have a more proactive debt management strategy, and so I offered them the proposal that they refinance our loans once we improve our fiscal standing," Purisima said.

Purisima said he was looking at $3 billion worth of refinanced loans within a three-year period for each of the foreign creditors. He said that should the foreign development assistance providers agree to his proposal, each of them could contribute $50 million in savings to the Philippine government.

World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg said his office welcomed the proposal of the Department of Finance, adding that the suggestion was in line with the bank's objective of helping the Philippines establish an efficient debt management strategy.

Purisima said the DOF would work on convincing the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to agree to the proposal.



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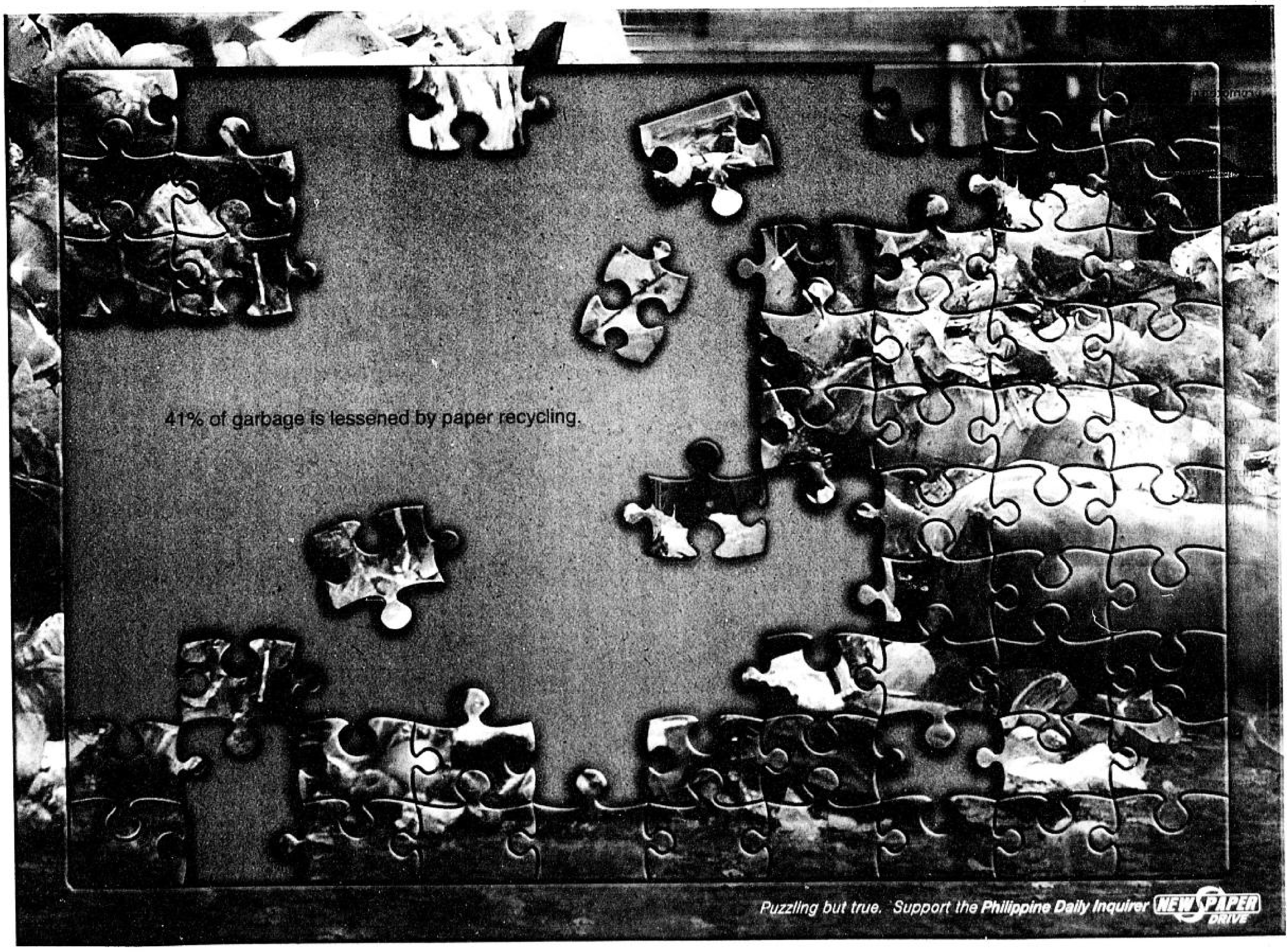
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UNOCAL'S OPTIONS

Caught between two bidders

WASHINGTON—A bird in the hand, or two in the bush.

That's the choice facing Unocal Corp., which in April agreed to be bought by Chevron Corp. for $16.6 billion, but is now considering a rival $18.5 billion bid from CNOOC Ltd.

The less lucrative Chevron offer cleared its final regulatory hurdle last week, and Unocal shareholders are scheduled to vote on it soon.

By comparison, the larger CNOOC proposal is not likely to receive such swift regulatory approval. It has already generated a minor political storm in Washington, where many in Congress have warned of a national security threat in selling a US oil company to a firm the Chinese government owns.

On Friday, CNOOC voluntarily filed a notice with a federal committee that reviews foreign investments, providing information about how its operations and acquisition of Unocal might affect US national security.

If Unocal intends to pursue a deal with CNOOC, it will make a similar filing and the review process will begin. If Unocal does not file papers with the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States, the secretive inter-agency group will assume CNOOC is attempting a hostile takeover.

Unocal reiterated its support for the Chevron bid this week in a letter to shareholders. A Unocal spokesperson said Friday there was no immediate plan for a CFIUS filing. But discussions between Unocal and CNOOC are ongoing in New York and analysts said it is tough to tell who will prevail. A bidding war is possible and a third suitor could even enter the competition.

If Unocal decides to pursue the CNOOC offer, however, Chevron has the right to bow out, pocket a $500 million breakup fee and look elsewhere for a strategic partnership.

Unocal has 1.75 billion barrels of proven reserves of oil and natural gas—an amount that would boost Chevron's reserve base by roughly 15 percent and CNOOC's by about 80 percent.

CNOOC's parent company, the Chinese National Offshore Oil Company, is predominantly owned by the Chinese government, giving it very deep pockets with which to make acquisitions.

Last Thursday, the House registered its discomfort with the prospect of a state-owned Chinese company taking over an American oil firm, voting 398-15 to ask the president for an immediate and thorough review if Unocal accepts CNOOC's offer.

However, even if Unocal's leadership walks away from the proposed CNOOC deal, analysts said it's possible Chevron will sweeten its offer.

"If Chevron doesn't up the price," Simmons said, "then Unocal directors are going to get sued for turning down a better offer." *AP*

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GM, Ford's partners in Asia say first half net to fall 50%

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SHANGHAI—General Motors and Ford's main partners in China issued profit warnings on Saturday, saying they expected net earnings in the first half of 2005 to drop more than 50 percent due to weak car sales.

Shanghai Automotive Co. Ltd., owner of a fifth of GM's main Chinese car plant, and Chongqing Changan Auto Co. Ltd. blamed fierce competition, margin-slicing price-cuts and rising raw materials costs.

Neither company offered a breakdown of second quarter earnings. Both are due to release first half results in late August.

"Sales in the domestic auto market continued to slow, price competition became more aggressive, and raw materials costs also rose," Changan Auto, Ford's China partner, said in a statement. "We expect net profit to fall over 50 percent in the first half of 2005 versus the same period in 2004."

Shanghai Auto filed a similar statement with the Shanghai stock exchange.

Shanghai Auto, the listed arm of top Chinese car maker Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp., posted a 49 percent jump in net profit in the first half of 2004 to 1.43 billion yuan ($173 million).

Changan Auto, the country's largest minivan maker and fourth-largest auto manufacturer, posted a 4.4 percent rise in net earnings to 798.72 million yuan in the same period, as both firms rode a boom in car sales.

But car sales in the world's third-largest vehicle market began slowing in the second quarter of last year, when Beijing stepped up curbs on easy car loans and implemented other measures to cool the economy. *Reuters*

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Chinese may soon park money in US buildings

NEW YORK—Today, it's oil and washing machines, but tomorrow, they may take Manhattan.

That's how United States real estate experts view the bids of Chinese companies to buy Unocal Corp. (see story above), and Maytag Corp., the iconic American maker of washing machines and other appliances.

This aggressive interest in buying US companies could signal broader investment from China in the United States that would include land and buildings in major American cities, real estate experts said this week at the Reuters Real Estate Summit in New York.

"I don't think it's in the near term, but three or four years down the road, it wouldn't surprise me," said Owen Thomas, Morgan Stanley managing director and the head of its real estate arm.

Real estate magnate Sam Zell, chair of Equity Office Properties Trust and Equity Residential, said he wouldn't be surprised if Chinese real estate investment somewhat mirrors Japanese investment in US assets 20 to 30 years ago.

"It's very likely to be initially in companies and, eventually in real estate, just like the Japanese in the 70s and 80s," Zell said.

The value of Japanese investment in the United States ballooned to $21.85 billion by 1985 from $4.24 billion in the 1970s, boosted by the strengthening yen and trade quotas and tariffs, according to the University of British Columbia's Centre of Japanese Research.

By 1999, Japan's stake in US real estate had soared to $45.6 billion.

Japanese investors bought US manufacturing companies, including transportation equipment, primary metals, electronic equipment, industrial machinery and rubber products, such as Bridgetown's acquisition of US-based Firestone in 1988.

In fact, 1988 appeared to be a watershed year, when Japanese investors bought 225 US companies, according to the National Clearinghouse for US-Japanese Studies at Indiana University.

They also bought real estate.

And while they didn't buy big-name oil companies, they did acquire their buildings, including The Exxon Building and the Mobil Building in New York.

Japanese investors also bought other high-profile buildings, including Arco Plaza in Los Angeles and 666 Fifth Avenue in New York.

In 1989, Japanese investors took a stake in Rockefeller Center, an Art Deco crown jewel in Manhattan's constellation of landmarks.

But the American real estate experts agreed that before Chinese investors become US landlords, the Chinese have to put in place systems for pooling money and moving it.

"I can't say why they haven't been here to date, although I suspect it has a lot to do with the trickle down of money and the creation of pension funds, etc., that evolve into investable funds," Zell said.

As far as moving money, that is starting to happen.

For example, Bank of America Corp. has agreed to take a 9-percent stake in China Construction Bank, China's third-largest lender.

Chinese banks also may be getting into real estate investment by lending money for investment in US real estate.

"I've heard anecdotally about Chinese banks looking at mortgage lending in the United states, and it would not surprise me at all to see some equity investment at some point," Morgan Stanley's Thomas said.

Others could be taking the back-door approach.

"Our view is, we're going to see a lot more," said Brett White, CB Richard Ellis chief executive. "It's under-the-radar-screen stuff."

Capital that moves from China often moves along family lines.

"You'll see wealthy US-based Chinese purchasing properties here," White said. "Our assumption has always been that there is a capital flow from other countries to support those people."

But a full-fledged Chinese investment in US real estate is not that far in the future, White said.

"A couple of years" is his best guess for when it will take shape.

With respect to either US investment in China or vice versa, China has the ears of all investors, Zell said.

"China is some place you can't afford not to be aware of and you can't afford not to understand," he said. *Reuters*

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Dr. Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann-Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the best-selling User-Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.

Dr. Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

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2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGIO OSMENA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990, ppavis@globelines.com.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the operations of cargo handling services in the Port of Sogod, Southern Leyte and Port of Guiuan, Eastern Samar under the jurisdiction of the Port Management Office (PMO) Tacloban.

Copies of Pre-qualification documents may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PMO Tacloban upon submission of an official Letter of Intent and payment of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P 2,500.00) which is non-refundable starting July 18-25, 2005.

Duly accomplished pre-qualification documents shall be addressed to the Chairman, Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee and submited to:

The Philippine Ports Authority
Port Management Office – Tacloban
Port Area, Tacloban City

following the schedule/deadlines below:

Submission of Letter of Intent	July 18-25, 2005
Issuance of Bid Forms and other documents	August 10-19, 2005

Pre-qualified Bidders shall be duly notified in writing of the schedule for the following:
1. Pre-bid Conferences
2. Opening of Bids

The PPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) RAUL T. SANTOS
Chairman, PBAC
Port District Manager

(PDI- July 4 & 11, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Migrating to Canada or Australia, please visit www.b4landing.com.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
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OFC MKTG STAFF
18-35YO COL GRAD/LEVEL JULY 4-8 0919-2366323 4FLR EXCHANGE COR BLDG VA RUFINO ST. ESTEBAN ST LEGASPI VILL MAKATI CITY

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph
• Website: www.lto.gov.ph

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the hereunder listed LTO Accountable Forms issued to the ARMM were reported missing and included in the general alarm list, to wit:

Kind of Form	Serial Nos.	No. of Pads
1. TOP	4330226 – 4330375	6 pads
	4330401 – 4330424	24 sets
	4330426 – 4330550	5 pads
	4330601 – 4330700	4 pads
	4330726 – 4330750	1 pad
	4330801 – 4331275	19 pads
	4331276 – 4331281	6 sets
	4331301 – 4331324	24 sets
	4331326 – 4331475	6 pads
2. MVMRR	167501 – 167625	5 pads
	167726 – 167738	13 sets
	167851 – 167868	17 sets
	167926 – 168475	22 pads
	168501 – 168550	2 pads
	168751 – 169375	25 pads
	169526 – 169925	16 pads
3. MVRR	620001 – 620725	29 pads
	620726 – 620737	12 sets
	620751 – 621050	12 pads
	621051	1 set
	621076 – 621625	22 pads
	952251 – 958400	246 pads
	958501 – 960375	75 pads
4. CR (Old)	7850201 – 7850425	9 pads
	7850526 – 7851075	22 pads
	7851101 – 7851400	12 pads
	7851426 – 7851500	3 pads
	7851526 – 7851975	18 pads
	7852001 – 7852150	6 pads
	7852201 – 7852500	12 pads
	7852651 – 7852700	2 pads
	5678501 – 5678750	10 pads
	5678776 – 5688600	393 pads
	5688626 – 5688900	11 pads
	5688951 – 5691000	82 pads
5. CRE	1724276 – 1725275	40 pads
	1725301 – 1725325	1 pad
	1725551 – 1725600	2 pads
	1725626 – 1725675	2 pads
	1725801 – 1725850	2 pads
	1725876 – 1725900	1 pad
	1726026 – 1726100	3 pads
	1726226 – 1727275	42 pads
	1727451 – 1727500	2 pads
	1727551 – 1727600	2 pads
	1727626 – 1727675	2 pads
	1727976 – 1728000	1 pad
	1728051 – 1728075	1 pad
	1728101 – 1728125	1 pad
	1728351 – 1728375	1 pad
	1729101 – 1729275	7 pads
	1728926 – 1728950	1 pad
6. IRMV	270001 – 270100	2 pads
	270201 – 270400	4 pads
	270501 – 271250	15 pads
	271701 – 271711	11 sets
7. RC	2421351 – 2422850	30 pads
	2424301 – 2424400	2 pads
	2424601 – 2425850	25 pads
	2425901 – 2426000	2 pads
	2426601 – 2426800	4 pads
8. DLR	4281426 – 4293550	485 pads
9. IRMV	205501 – 207850	47 pads
	208501 – 210500	40 pads
10. CC	3558551 – 3558650	2 pads
	3560151 – 3560200	1 pad
	3560301 – 3561800	30 pads
	3561851 – 3562300	9 pads
	3563751 – 3563800	1 pad
	3563901 – 3563950	1 pad
	3564801 – 3564850	3 pads
	3565001 – 3565100	2 pads
	3565901 – 3565950	1 pad
	3567651 – 3567700	1 pad
	3567801 – 3567850	1 pad
11. RRPL	577701 – 577709	9 sets
	579351 – 579550	4 pads
	582301 – 582350	1 pad
	583301 – 585300	40 pads

Please surrender and/or report to LTO-IID-LES, East Avenue, Q.C., any of the aforesaid form found in circulation.

(Sgd.) ANNELI R. LONTOC
Assistant Secretary

(PDI – July 4, 2005)

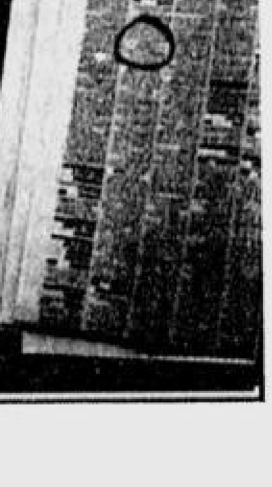
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's
Job Market
brings forth a special forum entitled

Maximizing Results in Your Recruitment Ads

- Mechanics and elements in placing a job ad
- Process of Job Placement
- Hiring the Most Qualified Applicants

When: July 5, 2005
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Where: PDI Multi-Purpose Hall
2nd Floor, PDI Building



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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax [illegible]
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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax [illegible]
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax [illegible]
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☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax [illegible]
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OBITUARIES

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845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Dearly Beloved

Lorenzo (Larry) M. Alberto Sr.

Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City
and Biñan, Laguna

His loving wife **Marivic**, son: **Lorenzo Jr.** & brothers **Gerardo, Luis** (†), **Zoilo Jr.** (†) and relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat Inc. Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Parañaque City (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Cremation will be on Thursday, July 7, 2005 at La Funeraria Paz Crematorium after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith. **(2 Timothy 4)**

Gone to eternal rest
but abides with us
everyday...

LOURDES ADRIANO FLORCRUZ y LOPEZ

of Malolos, Bulacan

BSHE '37 UP

***H.E. Department Head*, Bulacan High School, 1941-53;**
***Provincial Home Economist* of Bulacan, 1953-74;**
***H.E. Extension Specialist*, BAgrExt, DANR, 1974-77;**
***President*, Inner Wheel of the Rotary Club of Malolos, 1963-65.**

Died on June 30, 2005; Interment at Malolos Municipal Cemetery, Caniogan, following the 9:00am mass at Barasoain Church on July 6, 2005.

Affectionately remembered by husband **Cenon**; children **Nieva** & Erning Bejar Cruz (†) ; **Irma** & Nonoy Andes Medel; **Rene** and Lynn Velasco del Mundo; **Nilo** & Linda Sy de Guzman, **Jaime** & Ana Zaldivar Segovia; **Leni** & Roy Corpuz Florentino; **Rogelio** (†); grandchildren Derrick/Beth LeBras; Rachel Anne/Stephen Marcell; Sari/Greg Lingle (Katie); Bobby/Chieko Fukushima (Kiri); Mimi/Elijah Wasson (Ella); Weng, Victor; Kristine, Jassie, Archie; Nilo Vin II/Cherry Ramirez (Nicky & Elmo); Joseph Jaime, Michelle; Karen, Philip, Che-che; other relatives, friends and co-workers at Bulacan High School, Tabang, Guiguinto Nursery, H.E. Extension Division, BAgrExt, DANR.

An obituary with a picture
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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CLASSIFIEDS

Sogo Daily Hotel in Mandaluyong City Now Bigger and Better

SOGO Daily Hotel in Mandaluyong [illegible] now boasts of better facilities and [illegible] after the management of Hotel Sogo, [illegible] leading and largest chain of walk-in [illegible] in the country, invested in its [illegible] renovation and improvement recently.

With the change of its name [illegible] Marketplace Hotel to Sogo Daily Hotel, [illegible] hotel, in the midst of Mandaluyong's [illegible] exciting places, is now offering [illegible] services at very affordable rates, [illegible] Hotel Sogo is known for. The rooms [illegible] bigger and more comfortable than [illegible] of the same price range in other [illegible] Mandaluyong. The hotel brings [illegible] comfort, privacy and security, cleanliness and courtesy, which are distinctly [illegible] Sogo.

Sogo Daily Hotel offers various [illegible] types, which guests can choose [illegible] depending on their budget. The Hotel's 24-hr Food and Beverage services [illegible] a wide array of food specialties and [illegible] meals, from American to Asian [illegible] The hotel also recently launched [illegible] Japinoy, a variety of affordable and [illegible] Japanese set meals.

All these improved services [illegible] availed at bigger discount rates and [illegible] promos.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce to all interested Farmer's Organizations (FO's), Retailers and other interested NFA licensed wholesalers/millers that NFA will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction of 100,000 MT or 2.0-Million bags 15% brokens Imported Rice 2005 Arrivals.

PARTICULARS	VOLUME (IN MT)	INDICATIVE PRICE	
Farmer's Organizations	20,000	Ex-vessel	P 970.00/bg
Retailers	20,000	Ex-warehouse	P 1,010.00/bg
Open to all interested buyers	60,000		

The pre-auction conference and auction proper shall be held at 10:00 AM at FDC Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila on the following dates:

Pre-Auction	Auction Proper
July 11, 2005	July 14, 2005

All interested bidders/buyers are required to submit the following documents:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/or milling)
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting July 11, 2005 at DMO OCD, 5th floor National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C. from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For any inquiries, please contact Ms. Espie Tecson at tel. nos. 712-15-72 and 712-17-08.

Bid documents will be available starting July 11, 2005 to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 for FO's/retailers and 5,000.00 for all interested buyers.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) CONRADO DL IBANEZ
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition

(PDI – July 2 & 4, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE VISAYAS
Miagao, Iloilo

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE VISAYAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC) & FUND SOURCE	CONTRACT DURATION
A. Supply of Security Services for UP in the Visayas campuses, Batan Mariculture Station, Marine Biological Station, Brackishwater Aquaculture Center, and its training & research vessel "TRV Sardinella"	➢ Miagao Campus ➢ Iloilo City campus ➢ Batan, Aklan ➢ Taklong Island ➢ Leganes, Iloilo ➢ Iloilo City pier	P6,500,000.00	One (1) year
B. Supply of Janitorial Services	Miagao and Iloilo City campuses	P3,500,000.00	One (1) year
C. Supply of Cafeteria Services	Iloilo City campus	–	One (1) year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have the key personnel and equipment (owned, leased, or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment/logistics requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility check/Screening as well as the preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid (Projects A & B) shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE		
	SECURITY SERVICES	JANITORIAL SERVICES	CAFETERIA SERVICES
Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI)	July 11-15, 2005	July 11-15, 2005	July 11-15, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 18-20, 2005	July 20-26, 2005	July 25-29, 2005
Site Inspection	July 25-27, 2005	July 28, 2005	August 1, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	July 29, 2005	August 3, 2005	August 5, 2005
Opening of Bids	August 12, 2005	August 15, 2005	August 17, 2005

The Pre-bid Conference and Opening of Bids for Security, Janitorial and Cafeteria Services will be held on the dates stated above at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Tea Room, Cafeteria Building, UPV, Iloilo City campus.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount the University Cashier.

PROJECT	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
Supply of Security Services	P5,000.00
Supply of Janitorial Services	P3,000.00
Supply of Cafeteria Services	P1,000.00

The University of the Philippines in the Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

DR. CARLOS C. BAYLON
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 27 & July 4, 2005)

NFA releases P1 M coop incentive fees

THE NATIONAL Food Authority [illegible] office in San Juan, La Union has released a total of [illegible] million cooperative development incentive fees [illegible] to 15 accredited farmers organization/multi-purpose cooperatives (FOs/MPCs) for their production and post-harvest needs. The amount released was used by the various coops and organizations for payment of amortization of loans they have availed from government financing institutions; grains marketing assistance program (GMAP) provided by the [illegible] government and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP); corn development fund extended by the NFA and payment of post-harvest facilities ([illegible]) services availed from the NFA; purchase of materials for the construction of storage-facilities; and NFA [illegible] production inputs such as fertilizers. The breakdown of releases are as follows: P39,610.88 for one [illegible] Abra; P91,580.35 for three FOs in Ilocos Norte; P[illegible]57.93 for six Fos in Eastern Pangasinan; and P[illegible]1.21 for five FOs in Western Pangasinan.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Dillman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: July 21, 2005, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Bldg-I Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

SCHEDULE - I

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and junk power cable located at Mak-Ban GTPP, Bo. Bitin, Bay, Laguna	P 3,132,000.00
2.	One (1) Amian Pipeline located at Amian, Negros Oriental	P 70,400.00
3.	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of junk diesel engine parts located Bongao and Siasi Diesel Power Plants Note : Bidding for this item shall be conducted simultaneously at NPC Diliman, Q.C. and NPC-SPUG, Zamboanga City	P 42,000.00

SCHEDULE - II

1.	Barite, 8,010 bags, 100 lbs per bag located at Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant, Tiwi, Albay	P 502,627.50

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER AND TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE AND ONE (1) COPY OF VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr., OIC, Warehousing Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. For Mindanao bidders, bid form is available at NPC, SPUG Mindanao Office, Sto. Niño Drive, Pulik Road, Tomaga, Zamboanga City. c/o Mr. Ahmad H. Alsreo, Manager, SPUG-Mindanao. **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM July 20, 2005.**

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – July 4, 5 & 6, 2005)

PHILPOST

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION
Liwasang Bonifacio, 1000 Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Postal Corporation, through its Special Bids and Awards Committee for UPU-QSF CCTV Project invites Security Control and Surveillance Equipment and Systems providers, specifically those involve in the supply of equipment and installation of CCTV system to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Project Name	Project Identification Index	Source of Fund	Approved Budget for the contract	Procurement Requirement	Contract Period
Improvement of Mail Security at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC)	QSFPHL0402SEC01	UPU-QSF January 2005	128,975.00 USD	Procurement of CCTV equipment and system, including its installation/testing, commissioning and training	Three Months

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within at least the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the pass/fail criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedules of activities are as follows

Activities		Schedule	
		Date	Time
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	July 01, 2005	8 AM - 4PM
2.	First Pre-Bid Conference	July 07, 2005	1PM
3.	Deadline of Submission of Bid Proposals	July 22, 2005	9AM
4.	Opening of Bids	July 22, 2005	10AM
5.	Post qualification	7 days after opening of bids	
6.	Notice of Award	14 days after opening of bids	

Accreditation fee is 300.00 PHP. Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of 1,000.00 PHP in cash and/or manager's check payable to PhilPost.

The PhilPost reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the APMG for Marketing
Philippine Postal Corporation
3rd Floor, Manila CPO Bldg
Liwasang Bonifacio, 1000 Manila
PHILIPPINES

Tel. No. 632•5270140 - Chairman, Special BAC
632•5270125 – Secretariat, Special BAC

Date of Publication :

Newspaper	Phil. Daily Inquirer	-	June 27 and July 4, 2005
Website	GEPS and PhilPost	-	Starting June 27, 2005
Bulletin Board	PhilPost	-	Starting June 27, 2005

APPROVED
(Sgd.) LUIS D. CARLOS
Chairman
Special BAC for UPU-QSF CCTV Project

(PDI – June 27 & July 4, 2005)

BUSINESS

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By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Investors take hard look at RP politics

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Firms go beyond giving

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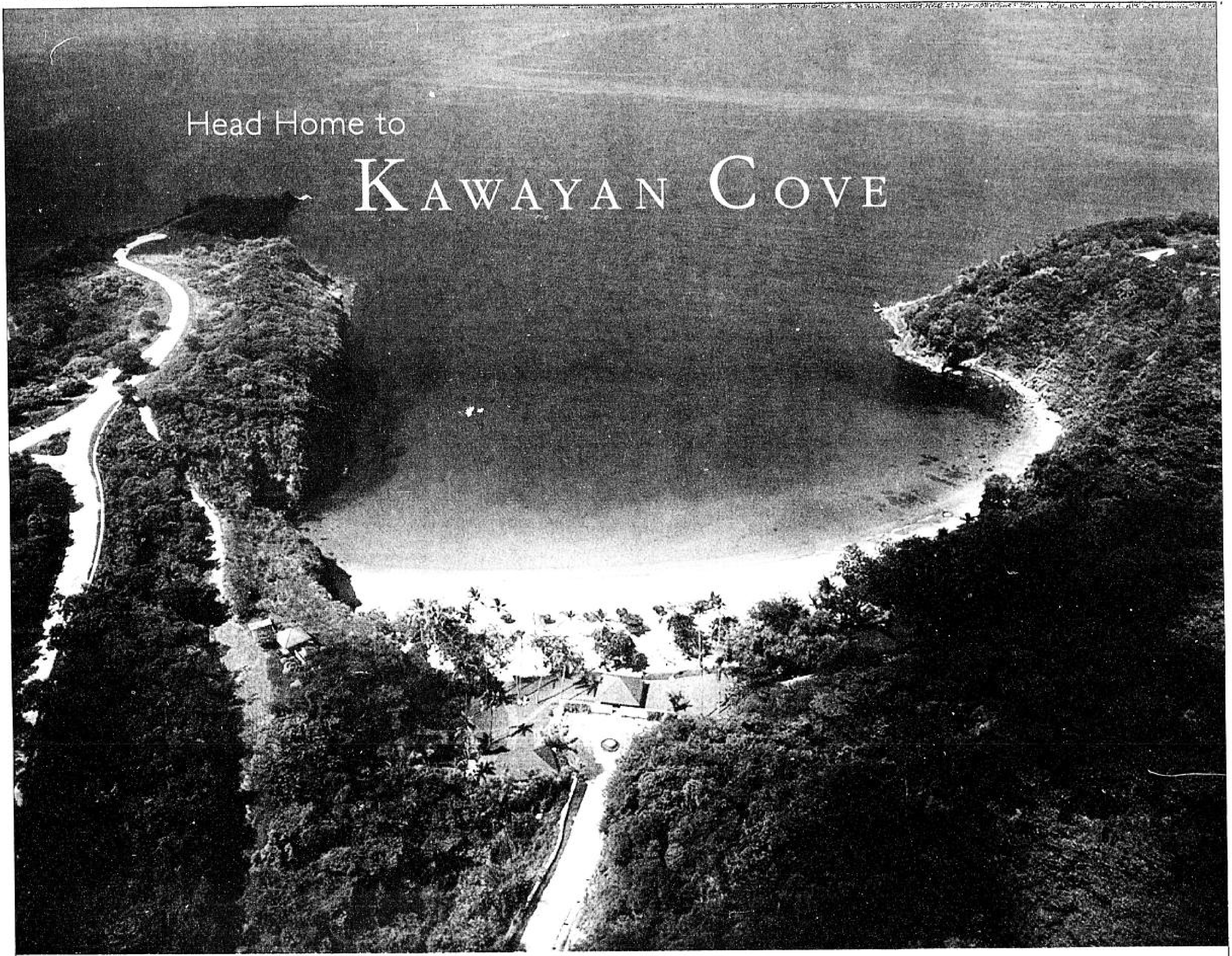

Actual shot of Bamboo Beach, Nasugbu, Batangas

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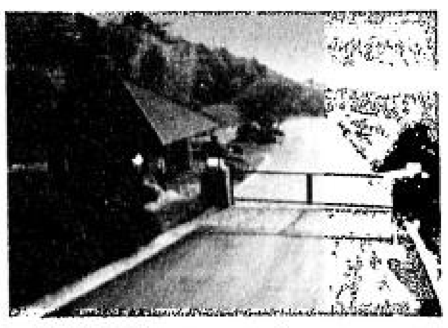

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Luxuriate in the comfort of modern seaside living

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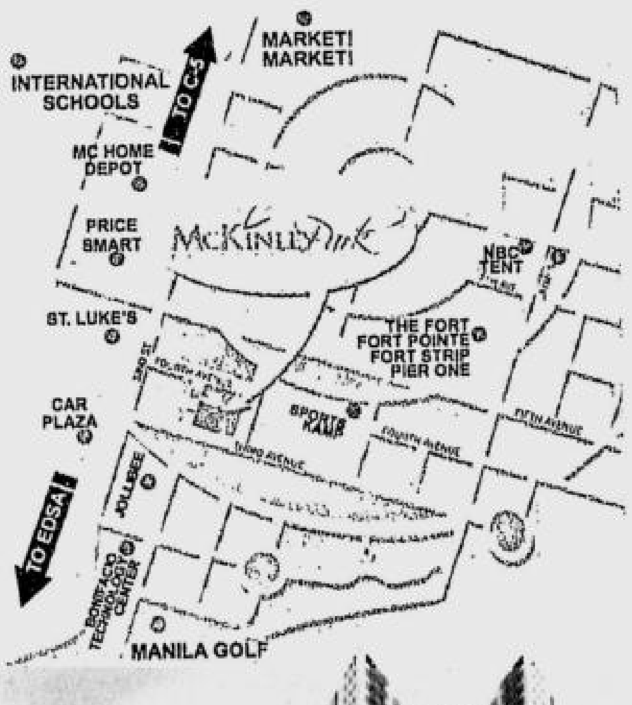

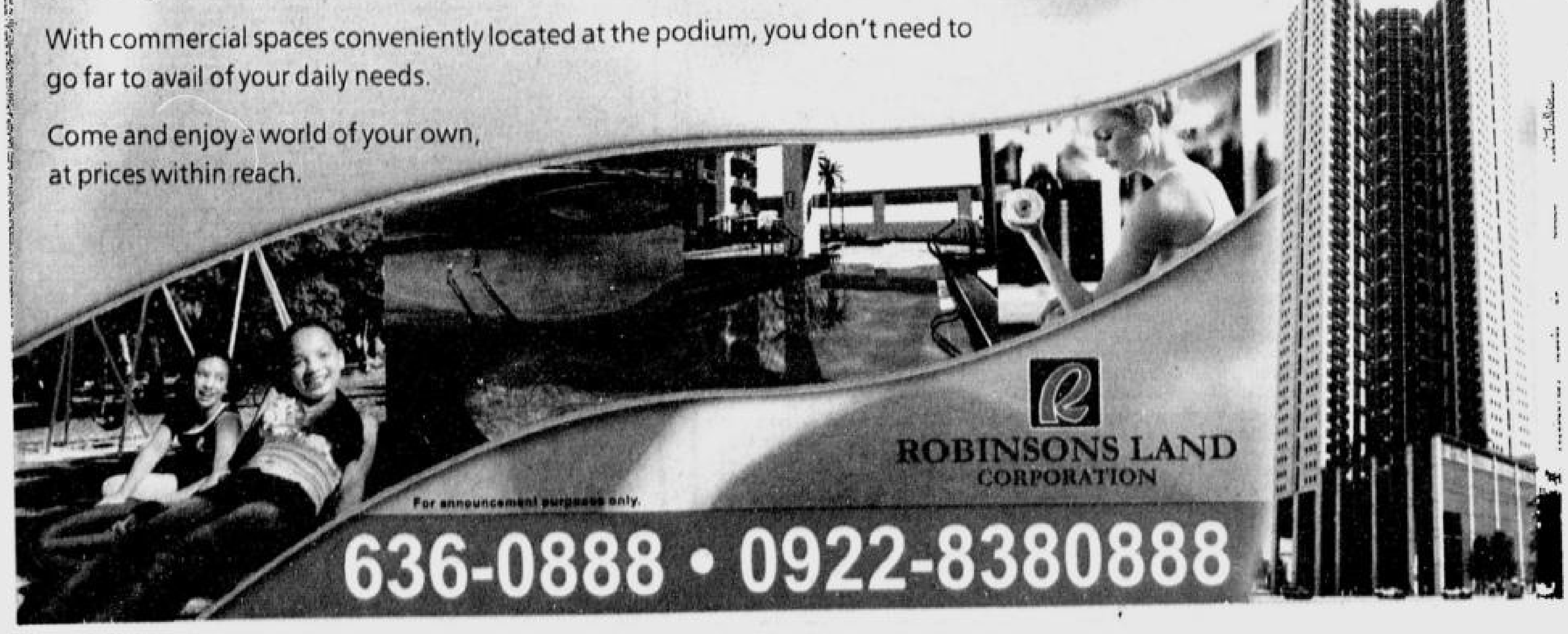

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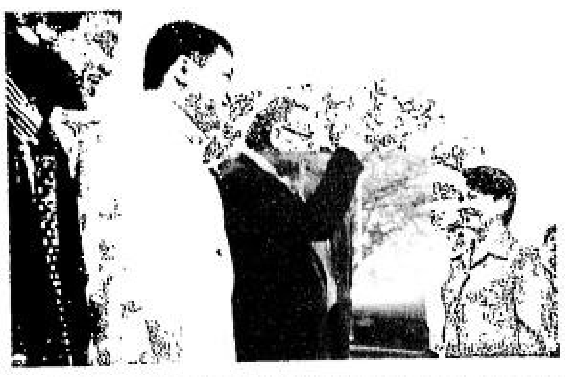

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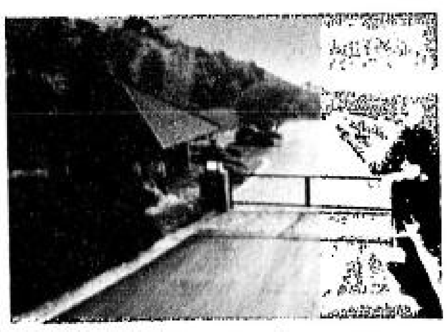

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Editor Leo Magno

Guild Wars to do battle in RP

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva and Alex Villafania
Contributors

GUILD Wars, the most popular online game in the United States and Europe, is ready to do battle in the local massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) market currently dominated by Level-Up!'s Ragnarok.

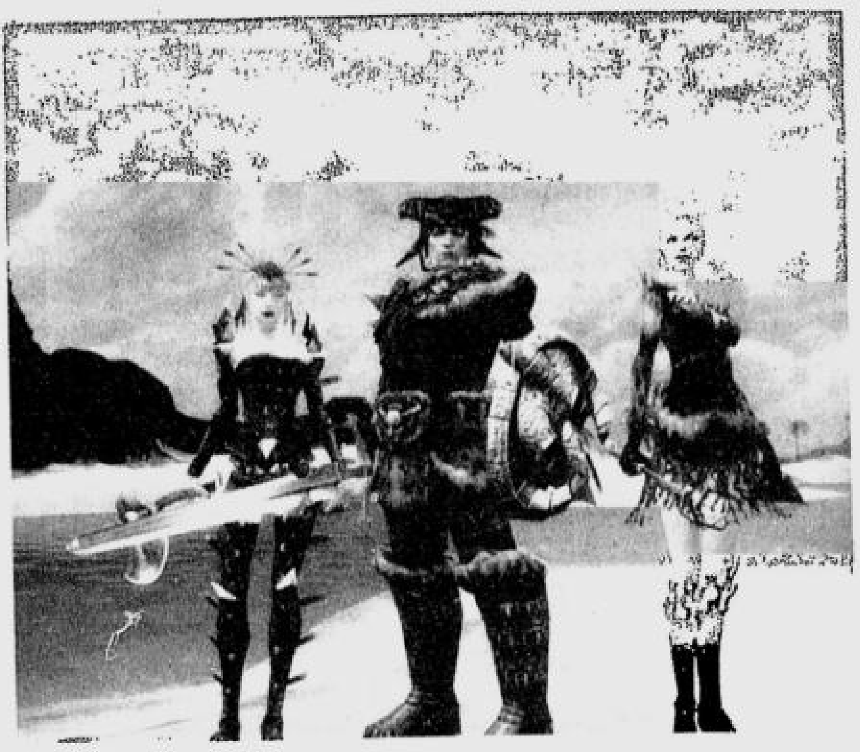
After South Korea, the Philippines is now the only Asian country that has Guild Wars, developed by NCSoft of South Korea. PC game distributor Asian Media Development Group (AMDG) is bringing Guild Wars to the Philippines.

Distributing the game is only the first step toward making it available in the Philippines, according to Felizardo dela Merced, executive vice president of AMDG.

"We need to have a good game to enter the local online market. If there's a market for Guild Wars in the Philippines, then we will set up the servers, although the game will be hosted in the US," dela Merced said.

AMDG is spending $1 million to distribute Guild Wars in the Philippines. In the first three months, the company is bringing in 20,000 boxes for local distribution. A Guild Wars box would sell for about P2,795, but AMDG will have special discounts for Internet café owners. AMDG will start distributing 150,000 free access passes worth 8 hours each to Internet cafés.

"We have to spend $6-7 million if we want to run the game in the Philippines," dela Merced said. "Filipinos have a different sense of playing games so perhaps a local server would provide them an environment where they can compete with people they know."



GET ready for war

Unlike with most MMORPGs today, local players of Guild Wars can compete directly with foreign players since it connects directly to international servers. Guild Wars currently has three official global hosted sites in the United States, Germany and South Korea.

AMDG is, however, cautious about jumping into the online game bandwagon in the country. The company said it will start with the distribution model first, then move on to running the game from a host in the US once the company feels it has enough numbers to sustain an online gaming business. Once it has critical mass, it will start building communities or, in this case, guilds.

Dela Merced described Guild Wars as the "Mercedes Benz of online gaming" and said they are targeting more serious gamers in the college level and above.

"There's still a big market for online gaming in the Philippines and different games can target different types of gamers," he said.

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To get the full study, visit **microsoft.com/getthefacts**

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UP Diliman students win Microsoft Imagine Cup crown

Will represent country in Japan for global finals

Senior students of the University of the Philippines Diliman Computer Science Department will travel to Japan this month to compete in the global finals of the 2005 Microsoft Imagine Cup software design invitational competition. The UP Diliman team will represent the country after besting two other teams at the national finals held recently at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo, Rizal.

On its third year, Imagine Cup is a worldwide competition designed to provide an outlet for students to explore technological and artistic interests outside the classroom. This year's theme is "Imagine a world where technology dissolves the boundaries between us."

The winning group, composed of Kristina Jane Baylon, Rhea Therese Lucas, Sarah Kristine Roxas and Jon Eric Cantos, presented a Microsoft .Net-based framework called Vulcan, which is based on the six degrees concept that links people to different objects or things like diseases and allergies.

"It's not just a simple Friendster type of connection. The framework will help us better understand medical histories and other items related to our communities. The team made sure that the entry fits well with the contest theme. While the concept of the framework connects people in various ways, the solution itself can be accessed across different applications," explained TJ Vergel de Dios, a faculty member of the UP Computer Science Department and team coach.

The two other winning teams, Ateneo, and UP Team 1, presented similar applications. Ateneo's Get-Together-Group Application links friends on common interests. The iSchool solution from UP Team 1 expands the learning environment of teachers and students.

The Ateneo team, coached by Ateneo Comp Sci professor Christine Amarra, was composed of Mark Punzalan, Erwin Dewey Lee, and Ma. Denise Verastigue.

UP Team 1 was composed of Jocelyn Villaraza, Kristine Marie Dario, and Elmira Gay Sto. Domingo. The two UP teams were the first in their classes to use a .NET based system for their projects.

The winning teams received trophies and cash prizes with the first prize winner receiving a PocketPC. The Imagine Cup representatives along with their coaches will undergo rigorous training to prepare them for the global competition.

"We are very excited and confident that our delegates will do well in the competition. This is an opportunity for us to present Filipino talent to the rest of the world. Moreover, Imagine Cup underscores Microsoft's belief in the pioneering spirit of young people, which is vital to sustain the growth and development of the high tech industry," said Antonio "TJ" Javier, Managing Director of Microsoft Philippines.

This year, Imagine Cup has drawn 30,000 students in the college and high school levels from more than 90 countries. The Philippine team will be part of 200 finalists from around the world vying for the top prize in Japan.

ADVT

Investors take hard look at RP politics

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOREIGN investors' intense interest in the Philippines for over the past year has led them to appreciate how politics is played out in one of the most free-wheeling democracies in Asia.

Foreign fund managers, thus, did not panic when embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted to having talked to a senior official of the Commission on Elections - an admission which was followed by loud calls from all sides of the opposition for her to step down from office.

As one influential think tank put it: "Filipinos have a masochistic tendency to air their dirty linen in public—or at least to try and expose others' unwashed garments."

This is something many have accepted as a given.

Ratings retained

Rating agencies Fitch and Standard and Poor's, for instance, have maintained their view on the Philippines, on grounds that measures to keep the economy growing were in place, and were not yet affected by the troubles hounding the Arroyo administration.

Interest rates on the Philippines' bonds also did not move by very much after the President's unprecedented admission of an election faux pas.

Financial markets did react, as seen in the depreciation of the peso to near record lows against the US dollar, and the daily decline in share prices on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

And they are expected to react even more with the Supreme Court order suspending the implementation of the expanded value-added tax, which lies at the heart of the government's economic reform agenda.

Analysts and investors' confidence was shaken, perhaps more than when President Arroyo admitted to the tapes.

"The question really is what is next," said Pierre Yves Bareau, head of emerging markets at Fortis Investments in Paris. "Does it mean the VAT reform is off the books or not? Is it temporary, to allow the situation to cool down? We don't know."

Last week, such concern was not even in the radar of most foreign businessmen, who expressed confidence that the economic fundamentals of the Philippines remained strong, and were somewhat isolated from what was happening on the political front.

They said they had no intention of either pulling out their funds or putting back plans to invest in the Philippines.

More pressing concerns

William Bailey, who heads the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, told Business Monday, on the sidelines of the Philippine Business Leaders forum held last week, that investors do remain bullish about the Philippines, citing the robust growth in the mining and business process outsourcing sectors.

Bailey said that while political issues would always be a source of concern, the bigger problem for members of the ECCP was the continued delay in the resolution of issues involving terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"The infrastructure project is a bigger problem because investors might think that what happened to terminal 3 would also happen to them," Bailey said. "That is a question mark to any foreign investor."

The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines earlier said in a statement that the delay in the operation of Naia terminal 3 was the "largest obstacle to attracting foreign investment capital to the Philippines—particularly in respect of much needed infrastructure projects."

Michael Wootton, chair of the British Chamber of Commerce, said during the forum last week that there were "very encouraging prospects," but added that the political instability and widespread corruption were "sore points" that should be resolved.

In this way, foreign businessmen believe that the Philippines can finally start reaping the benefits of having deep human and natural resources and feel real economic growth, not just on paper.

Keeping the faith

Singapore-based Scott Wilson, head of sovereign research at the Union Bank of Switzerland, meanwhile, said in the same meet that foreign investors have "kept the faith" in the Philippines, largely because of the giant strides taken in reining in the budget deficit.

Department of Finance figures showed that the budget deficit as of end-May hit P67.8 billion, well below the target of P98.5 billion for the first half, and 12.4 percent lower than the P77.4-billion budgetary shortfall in the same period last year.

Wilson said the interest rate on Philippine bonds did widen slightly by 30-40 basis points due to the "political noise," but said this was not an indication that investors have panicked.

"Investors want to see some resolution, but the confidence has been maintained," Wilson stressed.

However, those rates moved up last Friday on news that the implementation of the E-VAT was suspended.

Philippine sovereign debt yields surged higher on the news, with bonds due in 2025 giving a bid yield of 9.438 percent versus the previous close of 9.292 percent on Thursday.

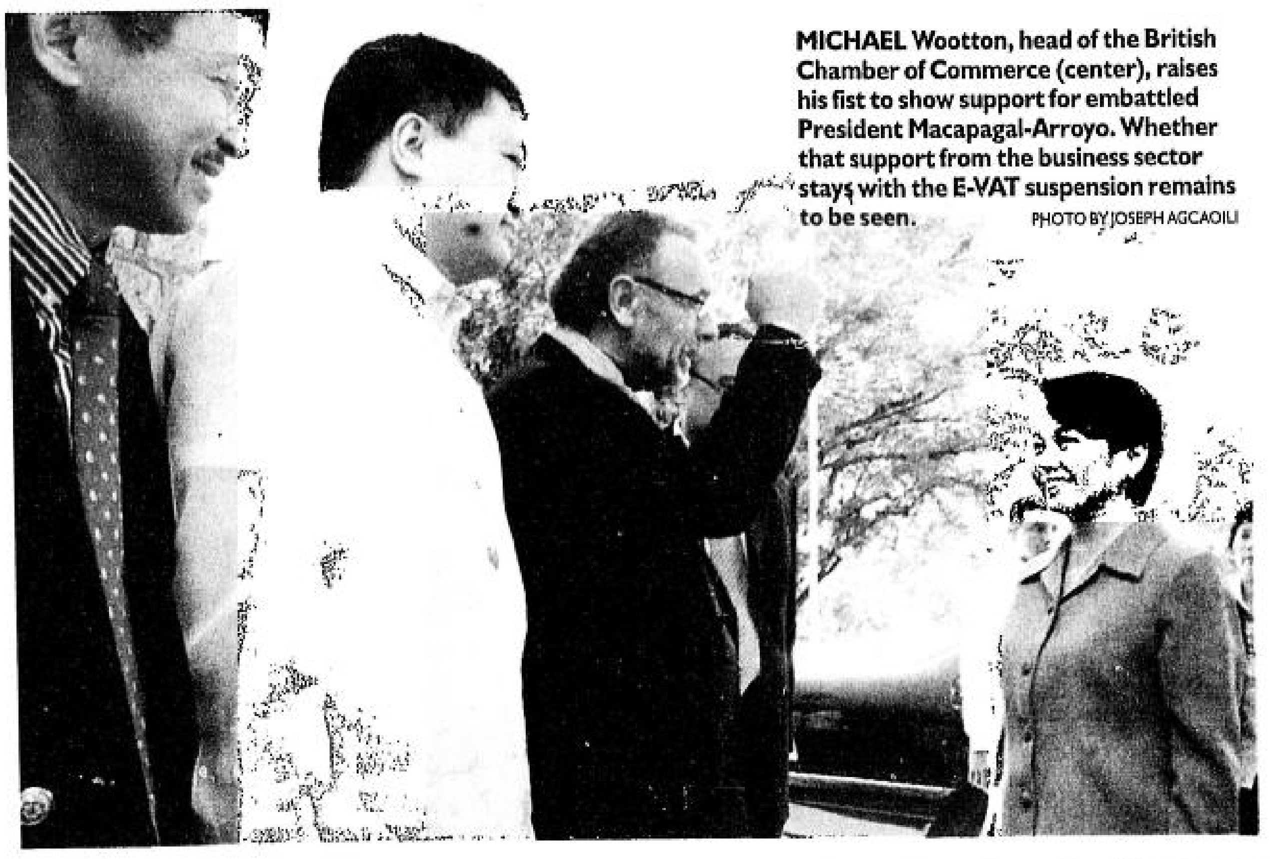
Sovereign debt due in 2015 saw its yield rise to 8.264 percent from Thursday's close of 8.258 percent.

The movement meant that investors believed the Philippine paper became more risky because of the Supreme Court decision.

The government economic team was counting on the E-VAT to bring in at least P28 billion in additional revenue, and plug the gap between revenue and expenses, particularly for infrastructure and social development.

The Philippines, Asia's most active issuer of sovereign debt after Japan, has run budget deficits in 11 of the last 15 years, including 2005.

With the E-VAT's fate hanging in the balance, it remains to be seen whether the Philippines would be able to achieve its deficit target, and keep the investors' hard-won confidence.



MICHAEL Wootton, head of the British Chamber of Commerce (center), raises his fist to show support for embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo. Whether that support from the business sector stays with the E-VAT suspension remains to be seen. PHOTO BY JOSEPH AGCAOILI

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Firms go beyond giving

By Amy R. Remo

LCF'S Erni (left) and Enrile (top) tell companies of the need to integrate CSR projects into their business strategies

AS more companies start to make sense of corporate social responsibility, old practitioners have begun to see it in a new light.

Corporations are starting to realize that simply giving away donations and scholarships are not enough to make a lasting impact on the communities they serve.

What is needed is to integrate CSR projects into their business operations to make their contributions more effective and sustainable over the long term.

"What we're seeing now is a paradigm shift—a new face of CSR emerges," said Lydia Sarmiento-Enrile, board member of the League of Corporate Foundations and chair of the Sarmiento Foundation Inc.

Enrile explained during last month's "Good News Kapihan" at the Global Cafe that CSR began as charity work or "pure giving."

These are acts of philanthropy—usually in form of donations in response to requests for financial assistance of local government units.

Over the years, CSR evolved as companies' efforts focused on projects with a measurable impact on the society, such as micro-financing.

"But for your CSR project to be truly effective and sustainable, it has to be integrated and aligned with the company's business strategy," said Enrile. "Projects should show what the product/company represents socially."

This, according to Enrile, is the message of this year's CSR Expo sponsored by the LCF.

The expo's theme, "Beyond Giving," is based on the need to integrate social development with business goals.

The three-day event at the Westin Philippine Plaza runs until Wednesday.

Formed in 1991, LCF is a group of corporate foundations involved in deep-rooted development projects that address social issues.

It has 58 member-foundations with around P4 billion in assets.

Using the expo as a means for advocacy, the LCF continues to encourage corporations to integrate CSR in their strategic plans and corporate culture, convincing them that doing good need not hurt the bottom line.

In fact, if properly imbibed in one's strategy, a CSR may also prove to be profitable for the business in the long run.

"In this way, the CSR advocacy becomes stronger, because it is part of corporate philosophies and business conduct," said Marilou Erni, chair of CSR Expo and executive director of Petron Foundation.

Practicing companies

According to Enrile, there are practices being undertaken by companies locally and internationally that show how CSR can be incorporated in the business strategy.

For Manila Water Co. Inc., integrating corporate social responsibility into the core business comes naturally.

"As a water concessionaire, our business is highly dependent on our ability to provide clean and safe water and, at the same time, capacity to protect the environment and our water sources," said N. Jeric T. Sevilla Jr., sustainable development manager of MWCI.

It was on this premise that MWCI developed its CSR projects, such as "Tubig Para Sa Barangay," which is targeted to the low-income groups that do not have regular access to clean water supply.

In this project, MWCI provides the infrastructure to bring water straight into the homes of the informal dweller, thus not only increasing its customer base and revenues, but at the same time, helping communities have safe and clean water.

"We realize that the health and well-being of our customers is inextricably linked to our business performance, thus presenting us with a unique opportunity to benefit society while improving our own commercial efficiency," said MWCI in its 2004 sustainability report.

The results of its CSR are more quantifiable for MWCI since it has linked its projects to the company's core business.

For instance, MWCI now serves two million additional people to its 556,000 customer base since its privatization in 1997.

By end-2004, it has also reduced its non-revenue water to 43 percent from a high of 63 percent in 1997.

Just like franchising

Enrile also called for the integration of CSR projects that are geared toward a particular field, for instance, education.

Out of LCF's 58 members, 34 have CSR projects addressing education needs.

One of these is the Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc., which has concentrated its efforts in the Visayas and Mindanao where the Aboitiz group operates.

"We have to integrate the effort and focus all energies towards achieving a common goal in order to bring about a more effective and more sustainable changes and development in the society," said Enrile.

Pacita Juan of Figaro Foundation agreed that there was a need to create a system-wide organized program that would consolidate similar programs on education, health, livelihood and other sectors.

"Just like franchising, you put one system in place so that all the companies will have guidelines to follow in carrying out their respective CSRs," said Juan.

Doing so avoids redundancy and may even provide a stable framework for other more sustainable projects.

Juan added that even competitors with similar CSRs can work together for a common cause.

One example is Ayala Foundation's Project Gilas (Gearing up Internet Literacy and Access for Students), which shows how competing telecommunications companies joined efforts to fight computer illiteracy.

Launched in January 2005, Project Gilas is a private sector initiative with a mission to provide Internet laboratories in all of the Philippines' 5,443 public high schools within five years.

Gilas also provides teacher training on basic Internet literacy; curriculum planning; and ongoing maintenance and supervision.

Together in this venture are Globe Telecom, Innove Communications, Intel Philippines, SPI Technologies, Microsoft Philippines, Bayantel, Makati Business Club, Department of Education, Philippine Long Distance Telephone, Smart Communications, IBM Philippines, PBSP, Narra Ventures, American Chamber of Commerce and Integrated Microelectronics Philippines.

CEO, government intervention

Erni said that while a lot of companies have put CSR as part of their mission statement, most of them have yet to accomplish it.

"The key here really is that CSR has to start with the CEOs," she said.

Roberto Calingo, LCF president and executive director of Mirant Philippines Foundation, added that there was some difficulty in making CEOs adopt this principle.

"Most CEOs are used to the mindset that if you're into business, you're after the profit. You operate it the most profitable way you can," he said.

"With this expo, we are hoping to make more CEOs understand the real value behind CSRs and how they can make these projects work for them," said Enrile.

Enrile also called on the government to participate, saying that private sector intervention can only do so much.

"More than anything, the government must give us the enabling environment to make CSR work," said Enrile. "It must be a collective effort of all private and government sectors and agencies."

She added: "The problems are so huge, even if we think we are doing many good things, they are still being dwarfed by the problem. We really need all sectors in this fight."

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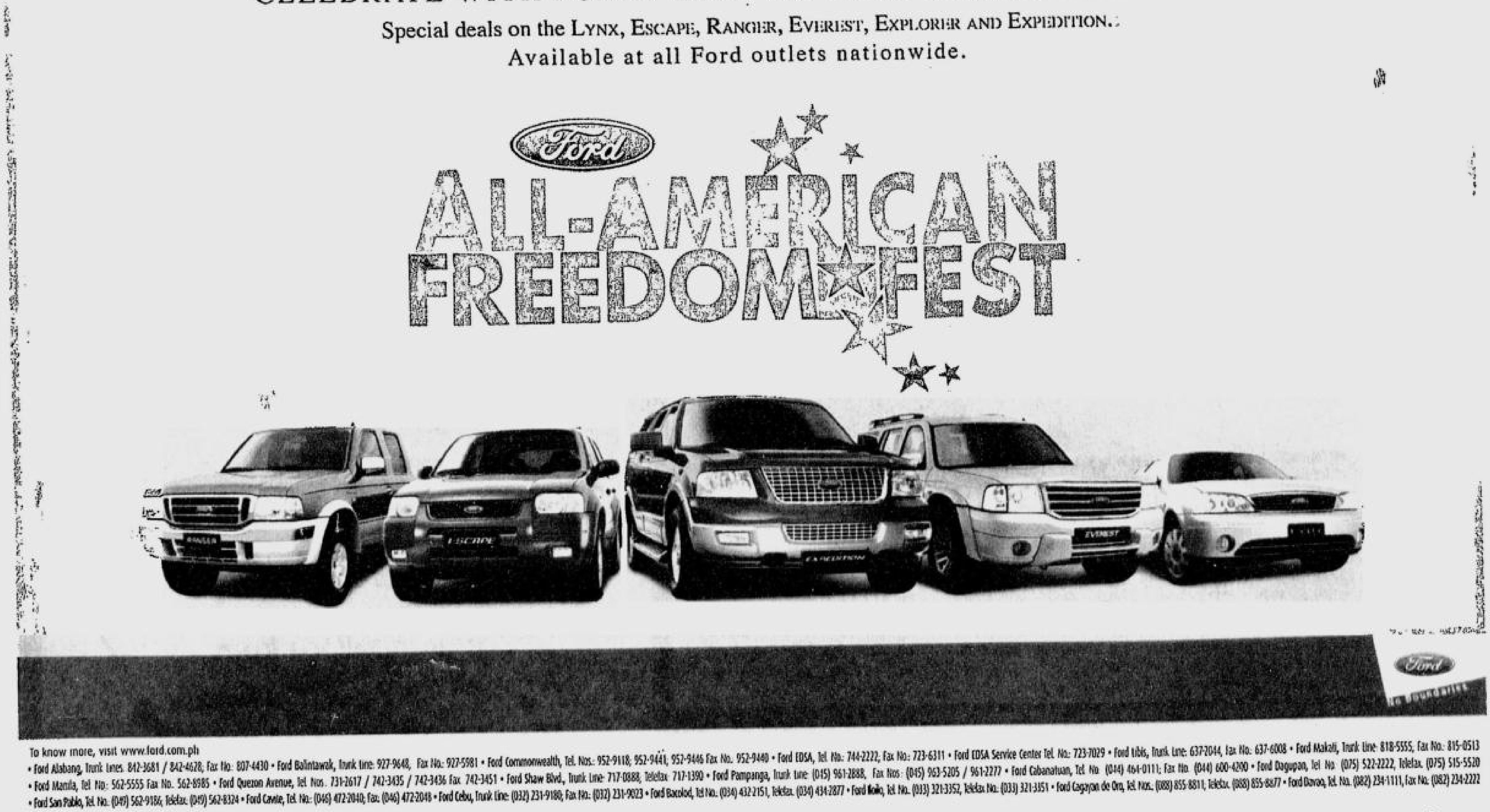

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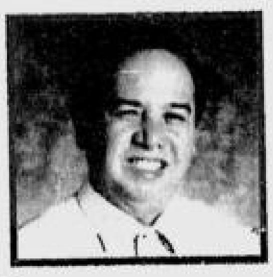
TQ3 PHILIPPINES TAKES TRAVEL MANAGEMENT TO A GLOBAL LEVEL



Message

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May you continue to grow in prosperity and I wish your organization's endeavors continued success.

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Richard J. Gordon
Senator

Message

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Joseph "ACE" H. Durano
Secretary of Tourism

Message

The announcement of the partnership between TQ3 Travel Solutions and Philscan couldn't have come at a better time.

It coincides with Philscan's 17th anniversary. It also coincides with our moving to a new and bigger office. In a way, the appointment affirms how far Philscan has come in all its years of operation. It is a pat on our back. I would like to share this honor with our staff who have worked hard for our success and with our clients who have trusted us.

This turning point also poses a challenge for us to do even better. With the infusion of TQ3's world-class expertise and technology into our own system, we hope to give our clients value added services that will set us apart from the rest. With globalization, we need a strong partner who will be there for us with the right technology, the network and the vision. TQ3 is that partner!

Thank you.

Sylvia L.Sango
President and Managing Director
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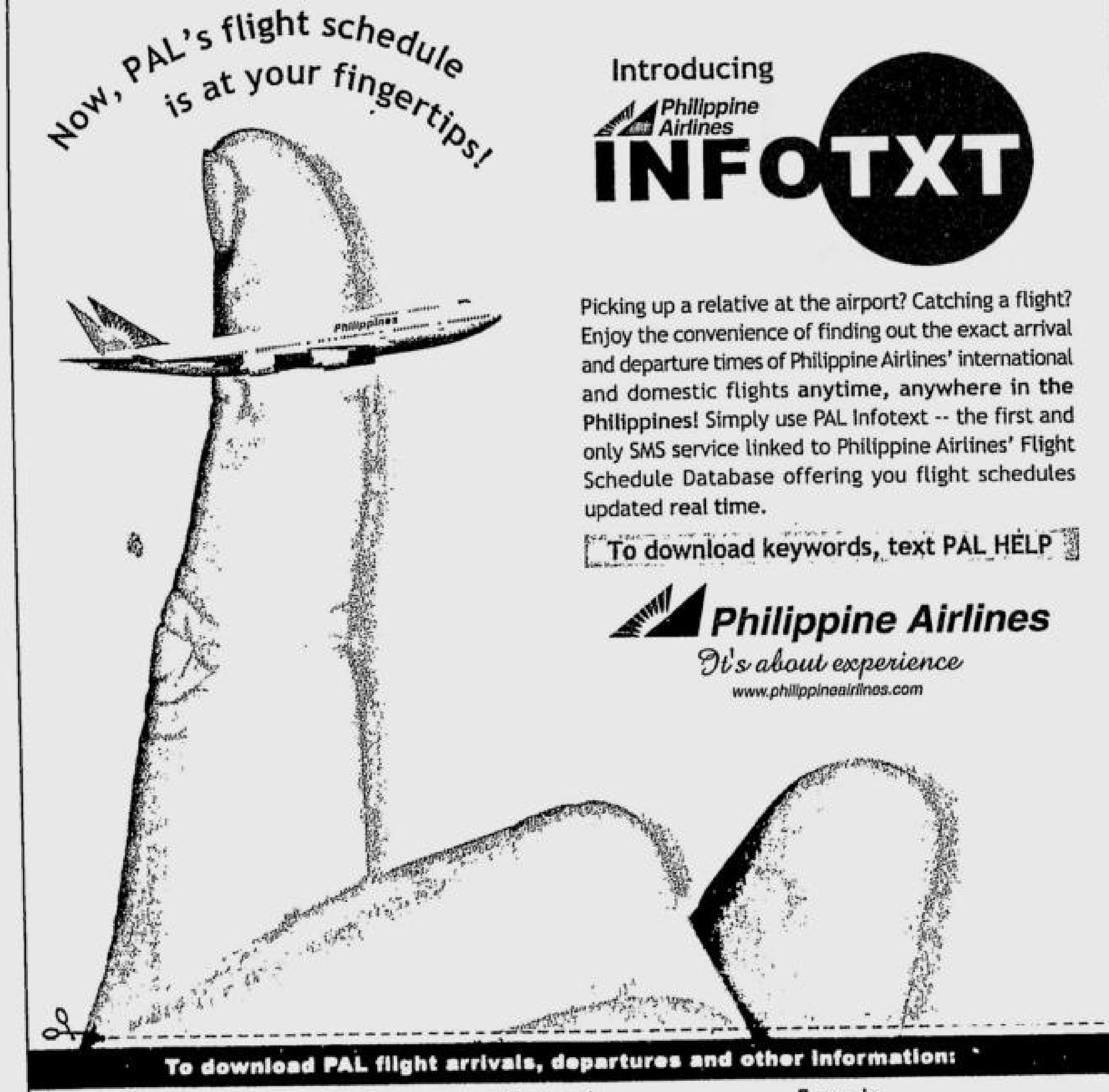
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(continue to next page)

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Sylvia Sangco, President and Managing Director of Philscan, and Toby Joseph, Global Chief Operating officer of TQ3 agree that the partnership will be beneficial for both sides. "It will be a good synergy," says Sangco. " A whole new world will open for us."

Joseph echoes Sangco's point of view: "I believe we have found a partner with identical objectives and we look forward to forging a strong partnership in the many years to come."

A holistic angle

TQ3 Philippines is poised to go beyond the traditional role of a travel agency as a mere ticket seller. "Ours will be a holistic approach," clarifies Sangco. "It will be the total management of a client's travel needs: budget , travel policy, process, expense, gathering of data and reporting systems. So at the end of the day, we're able to add value to the client."

To achieve this, TQ3 Philippines will have access to its parent company's innovative solutions. TQ3 Global has the business-planning processes and tools that translate to quantifiable results. For example, it offers such products as Full Service and Online Reservation and Booking Methods and a 24 Global Service Center. Its linkages all over the world ensures that TQ3 Philippines will deliver on its promises.

Think local, act global

Bicky Carlra, Managing Director and Senior Vice President of TQ3 Asia-Pacific, says that TQ3 is banking on Philscan's wealth of local knowledge, client relationship, language skills and expertise to manage its global clients.

He points out that there are a lot of multinational companies in the Philippines and it is their business to serve them.

Another thing going for Philscan is its vast experience in handling the travel requirements of maritime companies. In addition, the Philippines is a known headquarters of marine and oil businesses.

With this welcome development, the Philippine travel industry will definitely get a big boost.

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> *Toby Joseph, Global Chief Operating Officer , TQ3.*
>
> **Every single country is critical to our operation. As far as the Philippines is concerned, it has always been an important market, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.**
> *Bicky Carlra, Managing Director and Senior Vice President, TQ3 Asia Pacific*
>
> **Philscan is trustworthy. They know their business inside out. What's more, they are technology-driven-- they have a laptop assigned to a TC. Philscan works 24/7. I can get an answer from them even in the middle of the night!**
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New Office Blessing. TQ3 Philippines new office at the Royal Enterprise Bldg. on Chino Roces Ave. was blessed on July 1, 2005.
Shown from left to right:
Perly Skaar, E.R. Baring, Father Ruben Areno, Alex Lim and Sylvia Sangco.

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From left Lilibeth Victory (Director-Sales & Marketing,Amadeus Philippines), Bill Lawler (Regional Director, Multinational Customer Group-Amadeus Asia Pacific), Sylvia Sangco (Managing Director-Philscan Travel & Tours inc.) and Albert Villadolid (General Manager-Amadeus Philippines)

“

When I encounter difficulties in the airport or anywhere during my travels, I can always call on Philscan anytime, day or night, and someone is always available to assist me. Their service is a blend of cool professionalism and personal warmth.

Harry Beiermann, Vice President, Ship Management, Aboitiz-Jebsen

Our dream has always been to visit New Zealand. Thus, it was pure excitement when we took a flight to that beautiful country. Philscan made the trip truly unforgettable. They took care of everything, from getting us the most affordable travel packages to booking us at clean, comfortable hotels. We won't think twice to call on them again for our next trip!

Anchit and Sally Chuachiaco

I appreciate the fact that Philscan conducts briefings before sending a tour group to a specific destination. When we went to Shanghai in January, their staff gave us all the important information and helpful tips to walk us through our trip and arm us with the useful details to make our travel worry-free. That's how thorough they are.

Marlit Suarez, Customer Relations Manager, L'Oreal

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PINOY ballerina wins international prize /C3

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Architectural icons must be respected

New structures around CCP should conform with the site's integrity

CCP complex needs harmony.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THIS column received a surprisingly large number of responses to the CCP Design Competition that will implement the first stage of the Master Development Plan commissioned from PROS, the respected Philippine planning firm.

An architect wrote about the confusion in interpreting design guidelines imposed by a residential subdivision:

"In 1999, I designed a house in Alabang. I followed all the guidelines that were written

ARCHITECTURAL / C3

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Ogie, Cocoy, Ivy lead cast of Orlina's 'Caysasay' musical

NESTOR Torre directs the new religious musical.

OGIE Alcasid and Cocoy Laurel lead the cast of the new religious musical, "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay," by director Nestor Torre and composer Ryan Cayabyab.

Also in the cast are singer Ivy Violan, dramatic actor Tommy Abuel, visual artist Araceli Limcaco Daris, soprano Jane Diaz, comedians Lou Veloso and Andy Bais, actor-director Rito Asilo, and exciting newcomers Nicole David and Ira Marasigan.

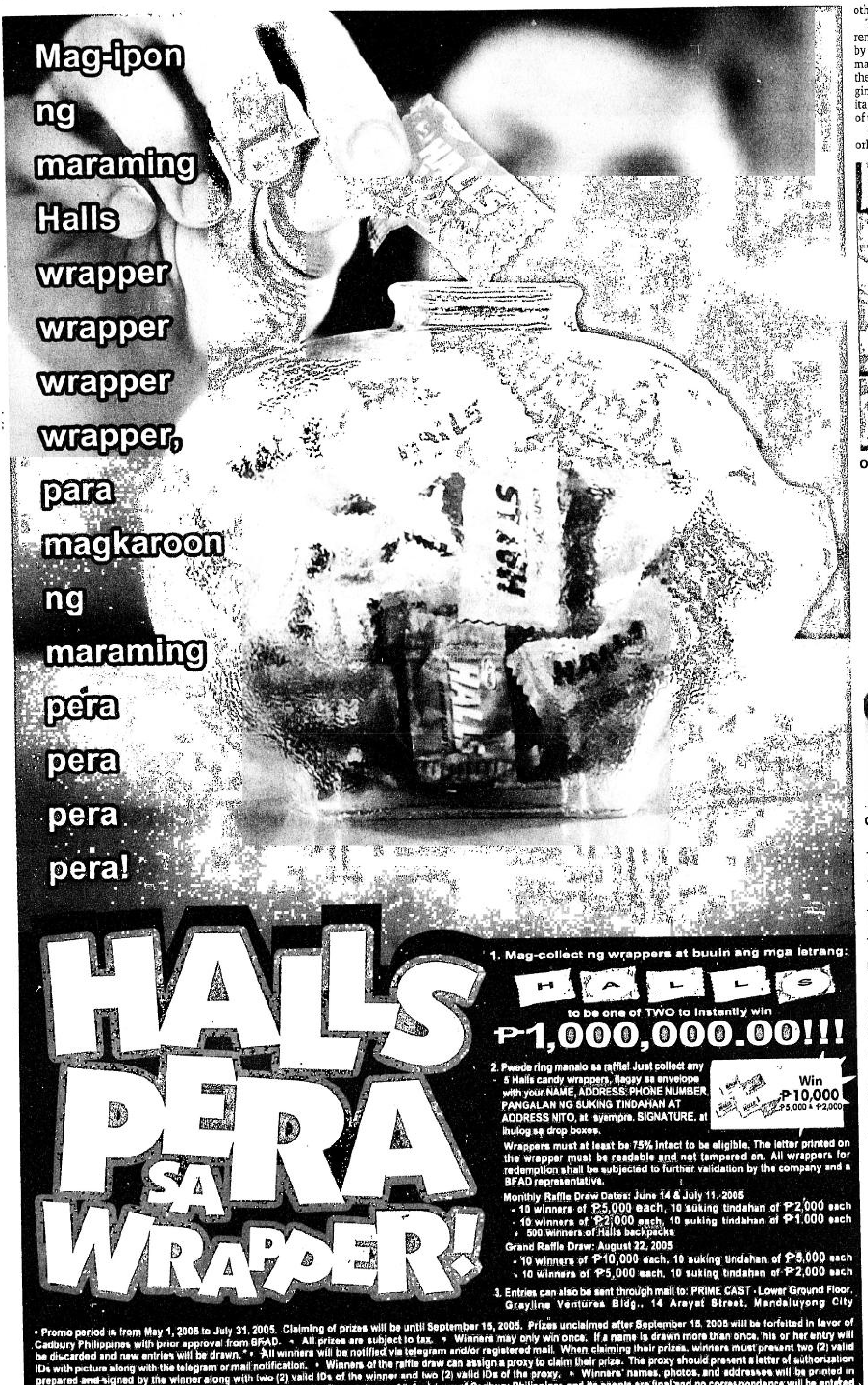
"Caysasay" will have a limited seven-performance run at the CCP Little Theater from July 7-10 at 8 p.m., with 3 p.m. matinee performances, on July 8-10. It tells the story of a Fil-Am family who comes home from the US to pray for the intercession of the Virgin of Caysasay for a miraculous cure for its ailing matriarch. In the process, they don't just learn about their home country's rich history, the colorful dramatic past of the Caysasay icon, and the indispensability of family during its most trying times, but also strengthen their bonds with one another and with God.

The new musical is produced by world-renowned sculptor Ramon Orlina. Libretto is by Rito Asilo and Noelani Torre. "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay" is produced with the Taal-Charm Foundation Inc., Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation Inc., Taal Heritage Foundation Inc. and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Call 8919999 or 7815918. E-mail orlina@pldtdsl.net.

OGIE Alcasid plays Haybing.

COCOY Laurel alternates.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- 10 winners of P10,000 each, 10 suking tindahan of P5,000 each
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For inquiries about the promo and claiming of prizes, call the Halls Promo Hotline (02) 883-4127 (Mon. - Fri., 9-12nn, 1-5pm). Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 1187 s. 2004

All wrappers for redemption shall be subjected to further validation and authentication by the company, BFAD, and independent external auditors.

Priests stage pop concert

From page C4

"By watching the concert, patrons will be making an important contribution to the building of our church which is now 70 percent complete," Fr. Santos added.

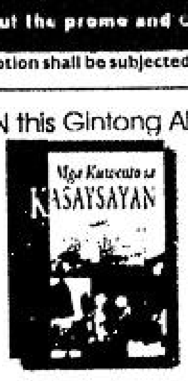
The band is composed of young priests from the Diocese of Malolos: Fr. Nico Castro (vocals), of St. Bartholomew Parish in Tugatog, Meycauyan, Bulacan; Fr. Danny Bermudo (vocals), of St. Peter Parish in Burol II, Balagtas, Bulacan; Fr. Dennis Santos (lead guitar), of Holy Family Parish in Karuhatan, Valenzuela City; Fr. Mulong Perez (base guitar), of Holy Family Family in Catmon, Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Fr. Mar Arenas (keyboards), of National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Marilao, Bulacan; and Fr. Dindo Hilario (drums), of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in Malanday, Valenzuela City.

The band will perform in Calgary and Vancouver in Canada and Los Angeles, San Diego and Las Vegas in the United States this month.

The group was formed in 1993 to spread the Christian message through contemporary music and to support the construction of the Bahay Pari (or Bahay Pastol), a home for retired and aging priests," explained Fr. Arenas, from the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Marilao.

"Holehearted" is the priests' call on Catholics to leave a space in their hearts for the Lord, said Father Santos.

Call 2776488, 4444488, 2921895, or 4402720.



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Written by Carmen Guerrero Nakpil
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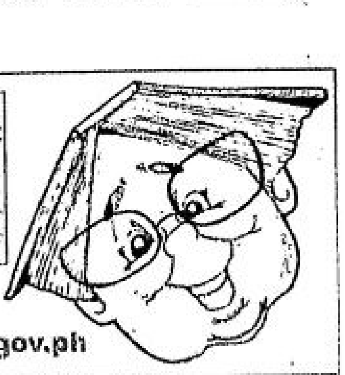


Ballet Manila dancer wins top New York prize

CHRISTINE Joy Rocas and Francis Cascaño in Agnes Locsin's "Arachnida"

ROCAS and Cascaño with Lisa Macuja-Elizalde

A FILIPINO ballerina won the top honors at the Eighth New York International Ballet Competition (NYIBC) held for three weeks in June at the Alice Tully Hall of the Lincoln Center.

Christine Rocas, 18, who has received her formal ballet training exclusively from Ballet Manila since she was 10, won the silver medal in the women's division, beating 26 couples from 19 countries. The gold medal was not awarded. The bronze went to Hanae Seki from Japan.

In the men's division, Joseph Gatti of the US won the gold. Daniel Sarabia of Cuba won the silver, Altankhuyag Dugaraa of Mongolia the bronze.

Rocas' partner was Ballet Manila company member Francis Cascaño.

The NYIBC, held every three years, is one of the world's premier dancing competitions. It identifies promising young dancers.

Rocas also bagged the Arpino Award—a one-year contract with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago.

"This is an example of how a student surpasses a teacher. It is a significant achievement that is unprecedented in Philippine ballet history," said prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, artistic director of Ballet Manila.

Macuja-Elizalde herself bagged the silver medal in the Asia-Pacific International Competition in 1987.

"This shows that the Philippines can produce great talent even though ballet is a Western art form. We hope this victory will provide the impetus for government, the business sector, and the public to support ballet. Our artists need patrons who share the vision of bringing the Philippines international recognition," Macuja-Elizalde said.

The NYIBC distinguishes itself from other competitions because of its unique and grueling format.

According to Osias Barroso, Ballet Manila's associate director and ballet master, the repertory is announced only upon the arrival of the dancers. During the first two weeks, all dancers are taught three *pas de deux* by world-renowned instructors and coaches. Only the dancers with the highest scores advance after each round.

President of the Jury for NYIBC 2005 was Victoria Morgan of the USA, artistic director of the Cincinnati Ballet.

The other judges were Stanton Welch of Australia, artistic director, Houston Ballet; Andre Lewis of Canada, artistic director, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet; Xin Li Li of China, artistic director, Shanghai Ballet; Dame Merle Park of England, former artistic director of the Royal Ballet School; world-renowned Dutch choreographer Hans van Manen; Alexei Ratmansky of Russia, artistic director, The Bolshoi Ballet; Victor Ullate of Spain, artistic director, Victor Ullate Ballet; and Maria Eugenia Barrrios of Venezuela, artistic director, Ballet Contemporaneo de Caracas.

In preparation for the competition, Rocas recently joined a competition in Helsinki, where she made it to the semi-finals. In August 2003, she received a finalists' certificate in the Junior Division at the Ninth Asia-Pacific International Competition in Tokyo, Japan.

She also took on various roles during daily shows at the Star Theater and Aliw Theater.

Upon her return, Rocas will be performing the lead role in the full-length staging of "Swan Lake," Ballet Manila's 10th-season opening, at the Aliw Theater this August.

Architectural icons . . .

From page C1

out, which were quite extensive. When I submitted the plans, the architectural office approving the plans for construction called my attention.

"They said it did not look like a house. I said I followed all your guidelines. They repeated [my plan] does not look like a house.

"So I asked, What does a house look like, for crying out loud? They said they would refer it to their board for decision ... I was exasperated. [Days later], I made a follow-up call and they said the plans were approved.

"As you can see, I am totally in agreement with your article!"

A letter writer says it is important that new buildings should stand as a good neighbor to older buildings on the block, especially when the older buildings are considered architectural icons.

He also refers to a principle in architectural conservation that new buildings in the vicinity of historic structures such as the CCP should remain in the background and not overpower its historic neighbor by being taller or larger.

It's about not sticking out like a sore thumb.

This little-known principle is legislated in the Intramuros Building Code, but not in the National Building Code of the Philippines.

Out of sync

Historian and dramatist José Victor Torres said my last column "has brought to my mind a question on the construction of the Aliw Theater right beside the CCP Building.

"I am, admittedly, not an architect but I can [understand] that the CCP Building is a frontispiece (an 'icon' as you wrote) for what was originally planned as an area for the development of the arts.

"If we are to talk about 'relations' to the design and landscape in and beyond the CCP, Aliw Theater is out of sync with the present (and probably future) designs of the complex.

"One could see that the Aliw is almost as tall as the CCP, not to mention the horrible transmitter tower sometimes decorated as an elf or an ugly Santa Claus during the Christmas season. The pineapple leaf-like (?) façade is almost totally 'unique,' to stand in contrast with the architectural designs National Artist for Architecture Leandro Locsin had for the complex.

"I understand that it is too late (since the building is already standing) to ask why the CCP allowed the construction to happen. Did no one see that there was regularity in the features of the surrounding buildings like the PICC, Folk Arts Theater, Film Center and others? I remember that the Philippine International Center for Trade and Exhibitions (Philcite) used to stand where Aliw is now. And this was a Locsin design that ... did not soar past the CCP.

"I am not saying that architects planning to join the [CCP Design] competition should copy or limit themselves to the monolithic Locsin design. I also hope that the Aliw Theater building will not become an excuse for other architects to say, 'Since we already have one looking like that, why can't we have another in the area?' Conformity to guidelines can either limit or bring out our creativity.

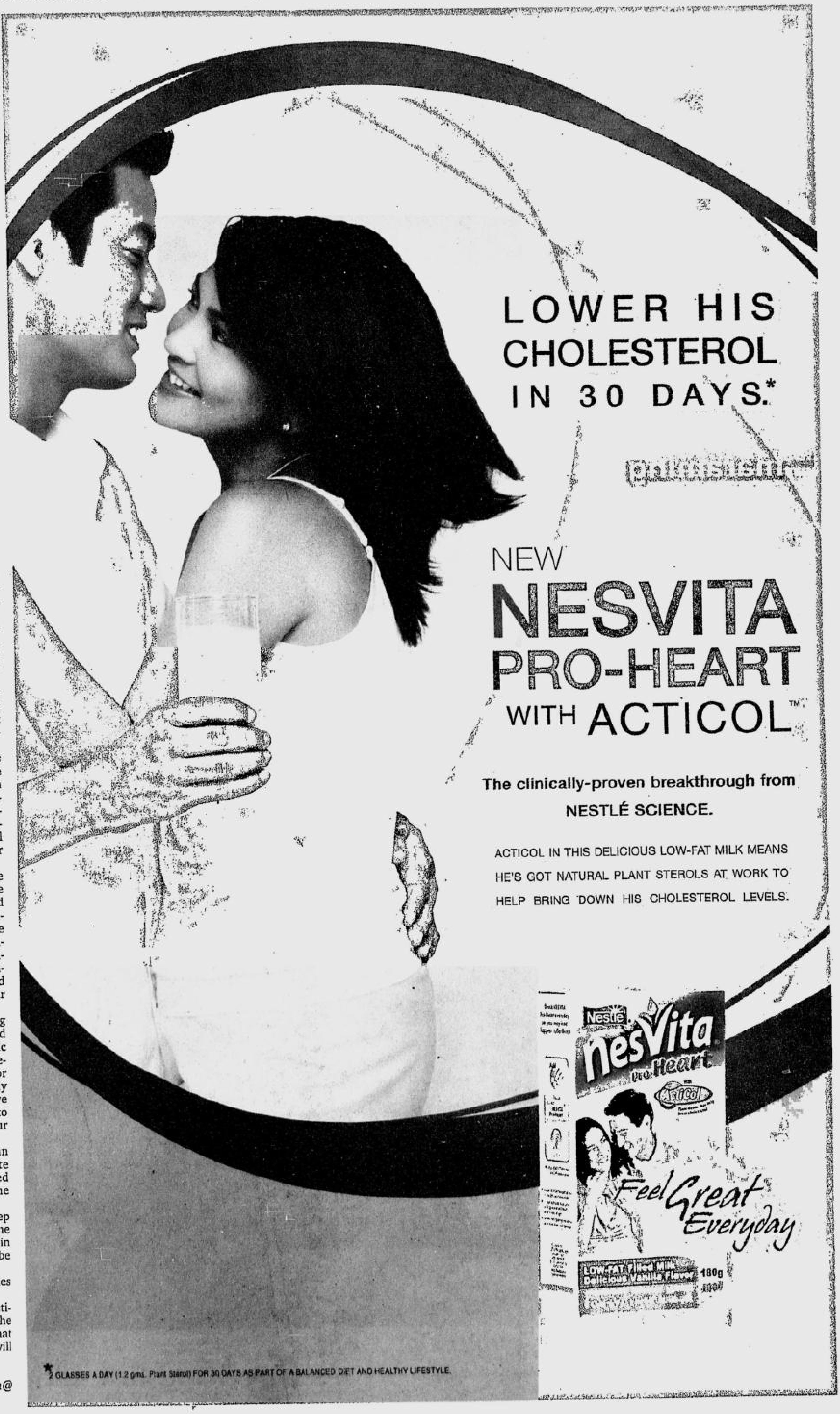
"The CCP complex is a unique urban landscape that has a function to promote what our government has now considered the least important on their agenda—the arts.

"Let us hope that the competition is a step to preserve this landscape. The rules of the contest may be the rules that would maintain and develop what the area is now and will be in the generations to come."

A prominent architect feels that guidelines do not dampen creativity.

He noted the fact that three "very prestigious professional groups" are behind the competition. "[I hope] your [assurance] that [the guidelines] will not stifle creativity will rub off on [us]."

Feedback welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com



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FATHERS Mulong, Nick, Mar, Dennis, Dindo and Danny

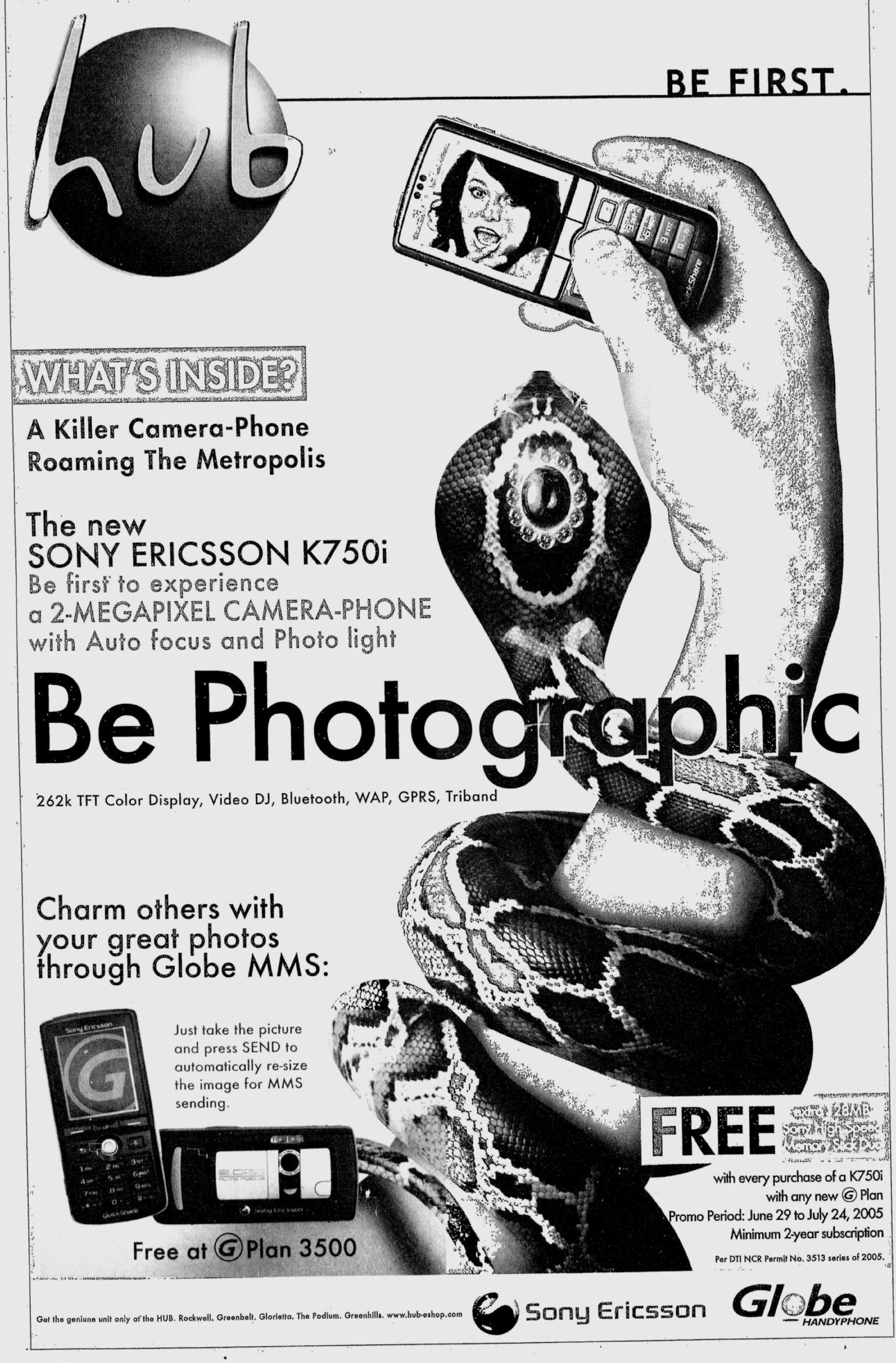
Priests stage pop concert

THE LEVITES All-Priest Band holds "Holehearted," a special concert-for-a-cause, at the Valenzuela Astrodome on July 8 at 7:30 p.m. The show will benefit the elderly priests' home in Bulacan and the construction of the Holy Family Parish in Barangay Karuhatan, Valenzuela City.

The band will perform gospel music, sentimental hits from the '80s, and even dance hits such as "Buttercup," "Sway" and "Mony Mony."

It will also perform music from Van Halen, a love medley, rock hits from Queen, and hits of Michael Buble and even Black-Eyed Peas, said Holy Family parish priest Fr. Dennis Santos.

PRIESTS/ C2



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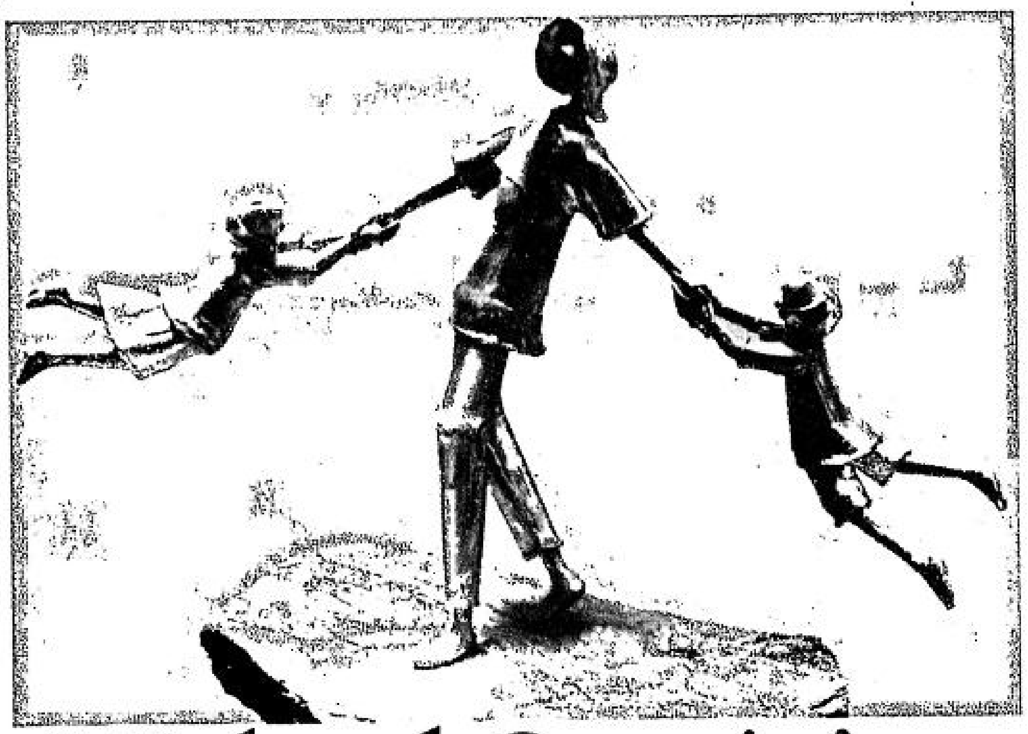

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Michael Cacnio's paternal reaffirmation

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

AMONG Michael Cacnio's brass renditions of frolic and play, a samurai stands out, an oddity and a welcome surprise. The armor of the Japanese military feudal lord shows the richness of Japanese culture, which has always held the admiration of the artist.

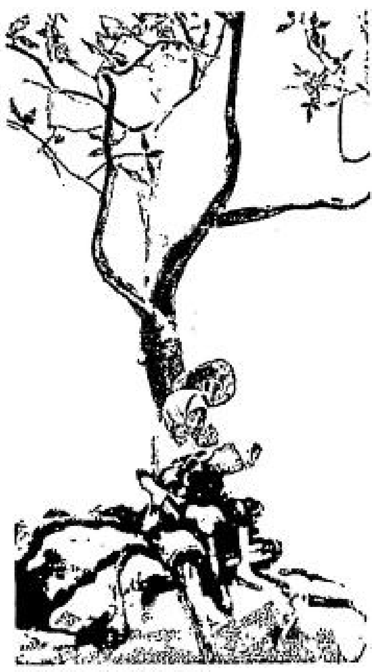
For Cacnio, who spent much time staging imaginary battles with toy soldiers, the samurai's combat dress compares with none in its intricacy. At 36 already an established sculptor with a decade of well-received exhibitions here and abroad, Cacnio not only applies artistry to his penchant for toy soldiers, but sends a spiritual message as well.

Armor of God

He cites the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians: "Finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Further: "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and, having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith with which you will be able to shield the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Each piece in the current collection he presents in Gallery Nine at Megamall is accompanied by biblical verses, evidence of the religiosity his father, painter Angel Cacnio, has instilled in him. That this outing is a tribute to the older Cacnio is evident in its title, "My Father's Son."



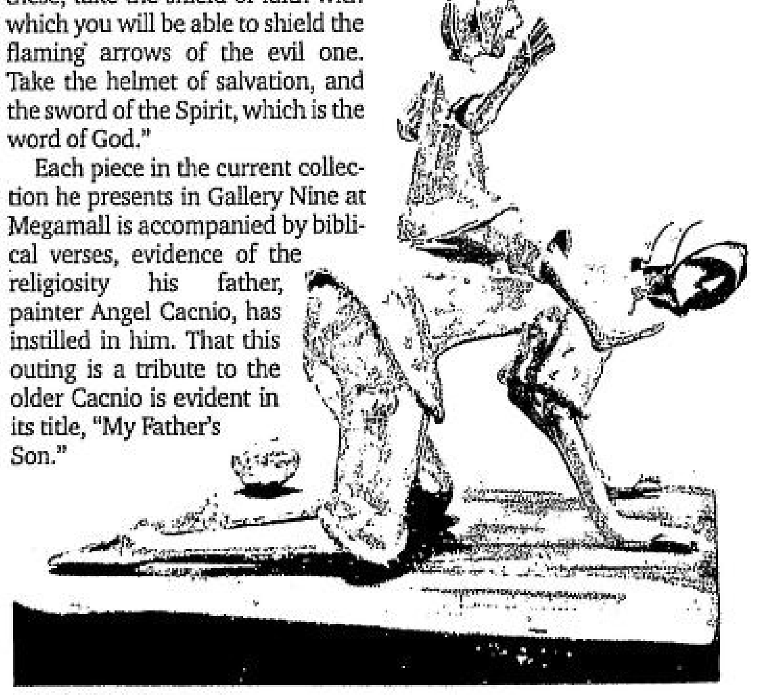
"QUALITY Time"

The loyalty Cacnio has for his father is visible in his sculptures. The senior Cacnio's Filipiniana has taken sculptural form, as in the clothing. Women are often depicted wearing *baro't saya*, the men or male figures sporting cropped pants, *camisa chino* and *buri* hats.

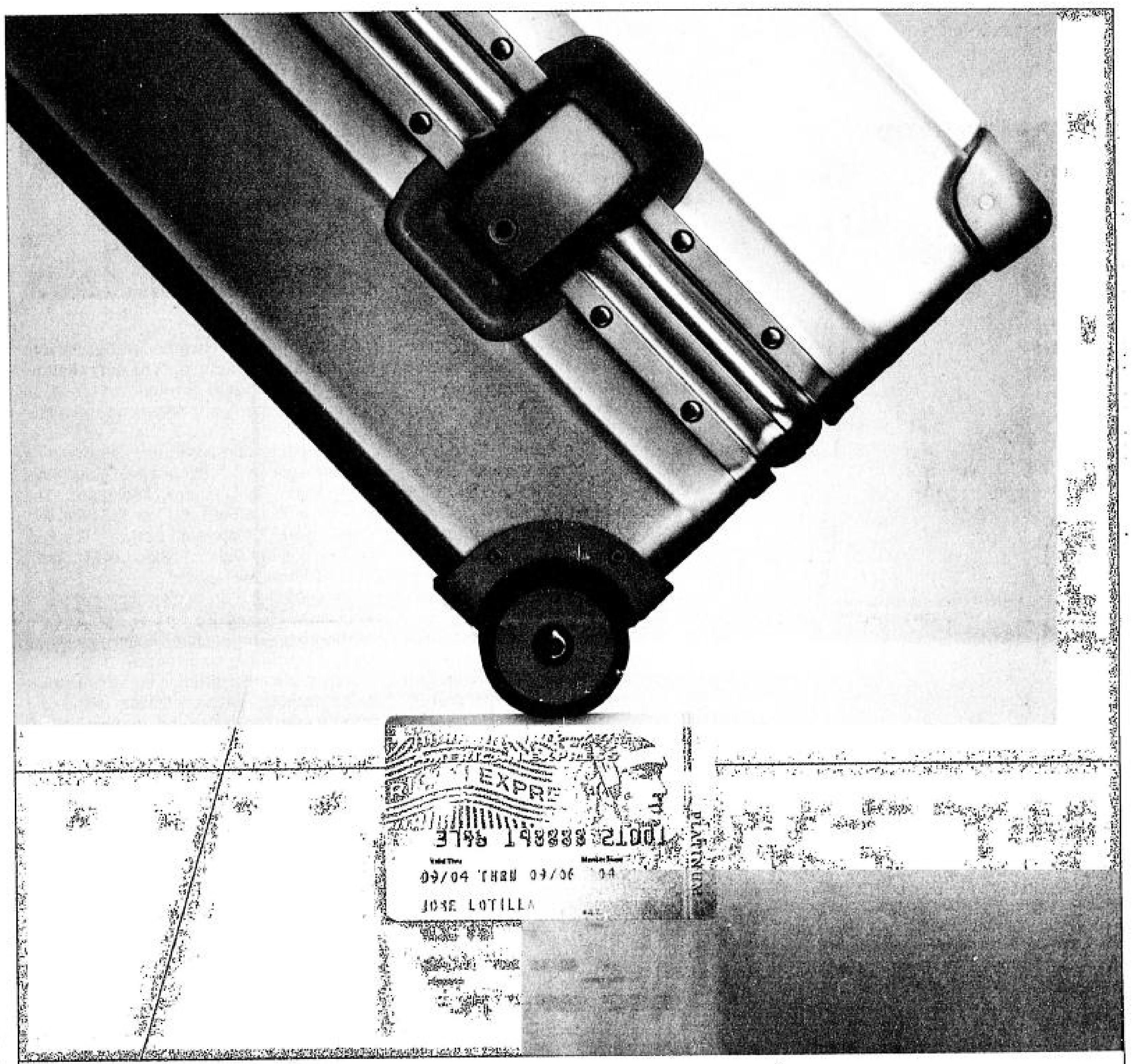
It is delightful that in his new Mother and Child works, Michael's elongated figure of the woman belies his admiration for Giacometti, but the *callado* or floral applique detailing of the skirts is a tribute to his father.

Definitely, the themes echo his father's pieces: Filipino values and goodness. If there is anything he learned from Dad, it is to convey "beauty in art," as homage to God.

MICHAEL/D3



"HORSEY Horsey"



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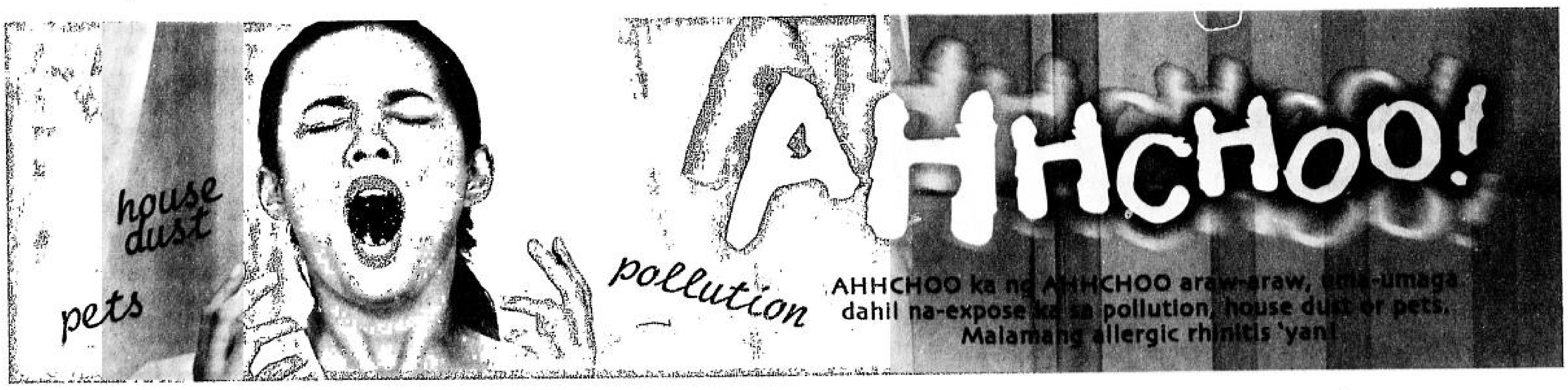

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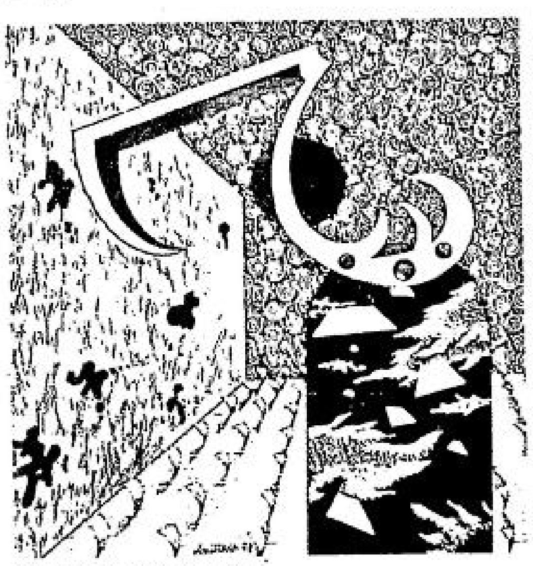
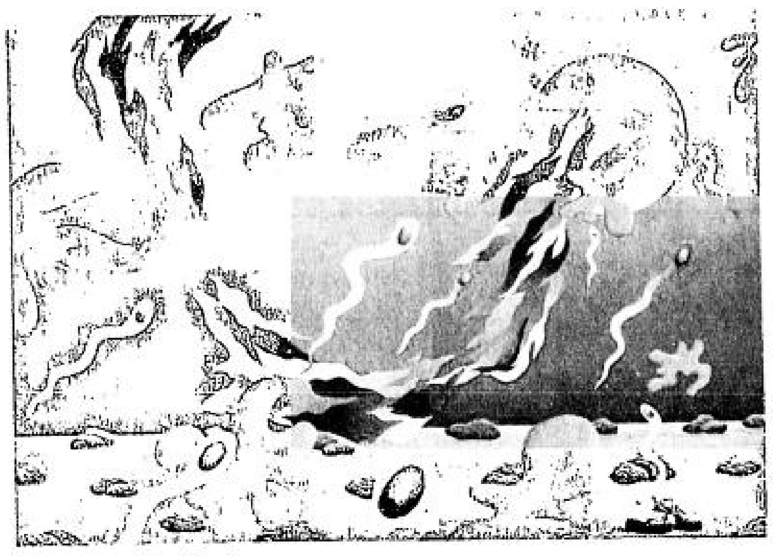
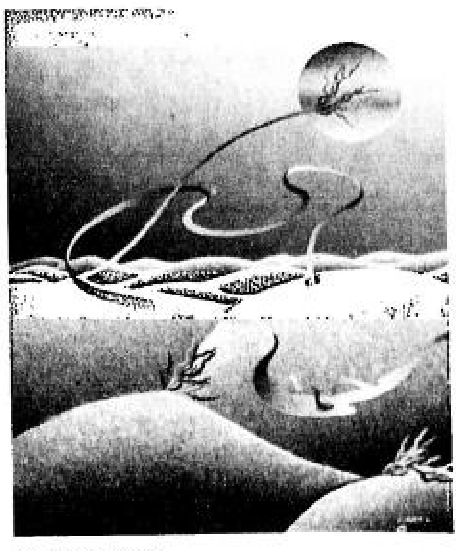


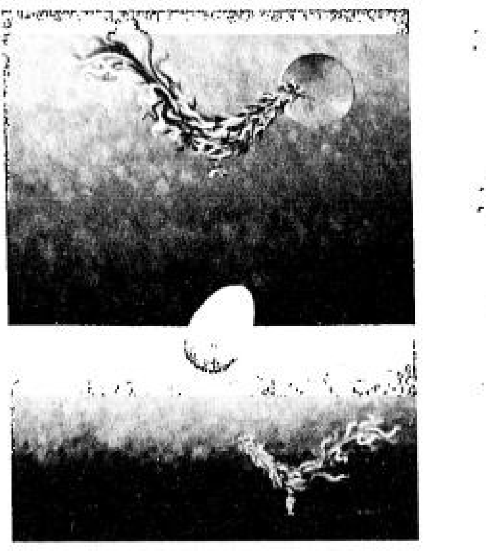
"BLOOD of My Soul"



"SURGE of Passion"



"DESNUDA"

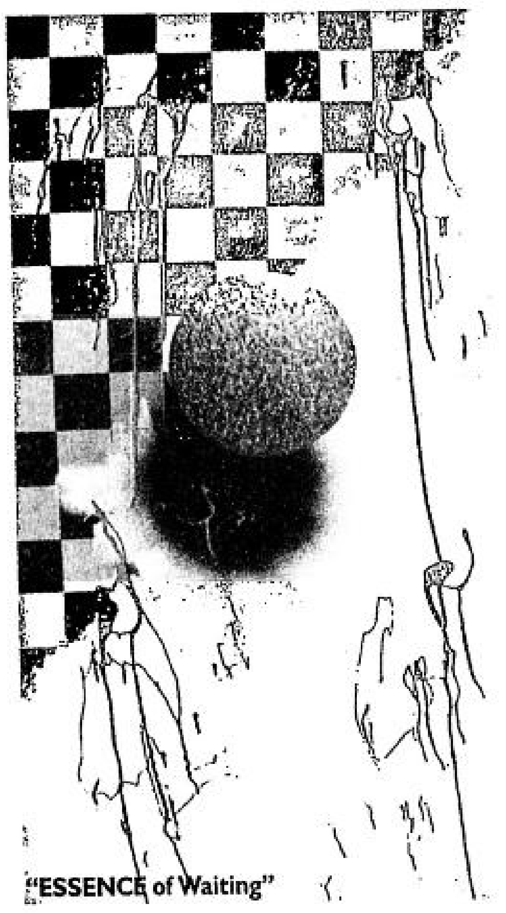


"SONGS of My Troubled Land"

Visual trope strips bare the soul

By Constantino C. Tejero

DANNY Sillada is a painter who happens to also write verses. Using both visual and literary mediums, it makes it easier for him to unburden himself of some carry-over angst either existential or inconsequential.



"ESSENCE of Waiting"

This is the classic case of art as therapy—when the artist purges himself of dark thoughts and bad emotions, all the negativism from his being, either through visible image or the written word.

Sillada says what he has gone though the creative process (the act of painting or drawing) is "much more cathartic and dramatically significant than the finished product itself" (the painting or drawing).

Metaphor, of course, is used, and the artist, naturally, gravitates to surrealism.

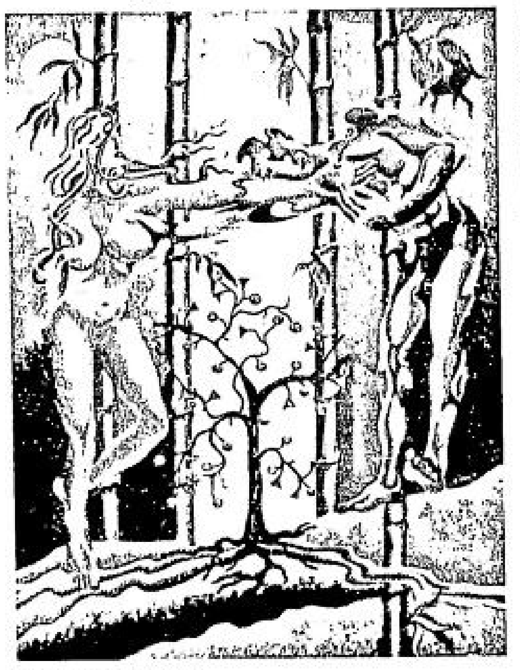
"I have my own reason to believe that every reality has its own symbols and meanings that represent the hidden truth of human existence," he elaborates. "The images I have intricately woven in my art are direct and visible representations of those hidden realities in my inner self."

In every exhibit of his works then he is offering himself "as I strip my soul naked through the complex and disturbing imagery of my art."

And how complex it is! how disturbing!—as the astounded viewer is confronted by the images in Sillada's "The Collection," 37 pieces in oil on canvas and pen and ink on paper, until July 10 in the Activity Area, 2/F, The Podium, 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Once again the artist is stripping his soul naked through and through—resulting in imagery that's crammed with symbols strong on sexuality, canvases choked with biomorphic forms and dreamlike images.

Each piece is rendered in clean lines, neat highlights and careful shading. Though the perspective is meticulous, the use of flat colors (primary and secondary only) undermines the realism of the image.



"ADAM and Eve"

We won't even attempt to unlock the mystery behind every painting and drawing, much less interpret each image. Suffice it to say that the artist admits: "The dark shadow of my soul emerges through my creation like a sordid metaphor between dream and reality."

By the pieces' titles alone, one sees a man on a stormy night on the edge of a precipice: "Tears of My Broken Soul," "Ennui," "Solitudo," "The Window Is There But I Am Not the Window," "Caged World," "Repressed Desire," "The Rotten Womb in My Dream," "Blood of My Soul," "My Loneliness, My Despair."

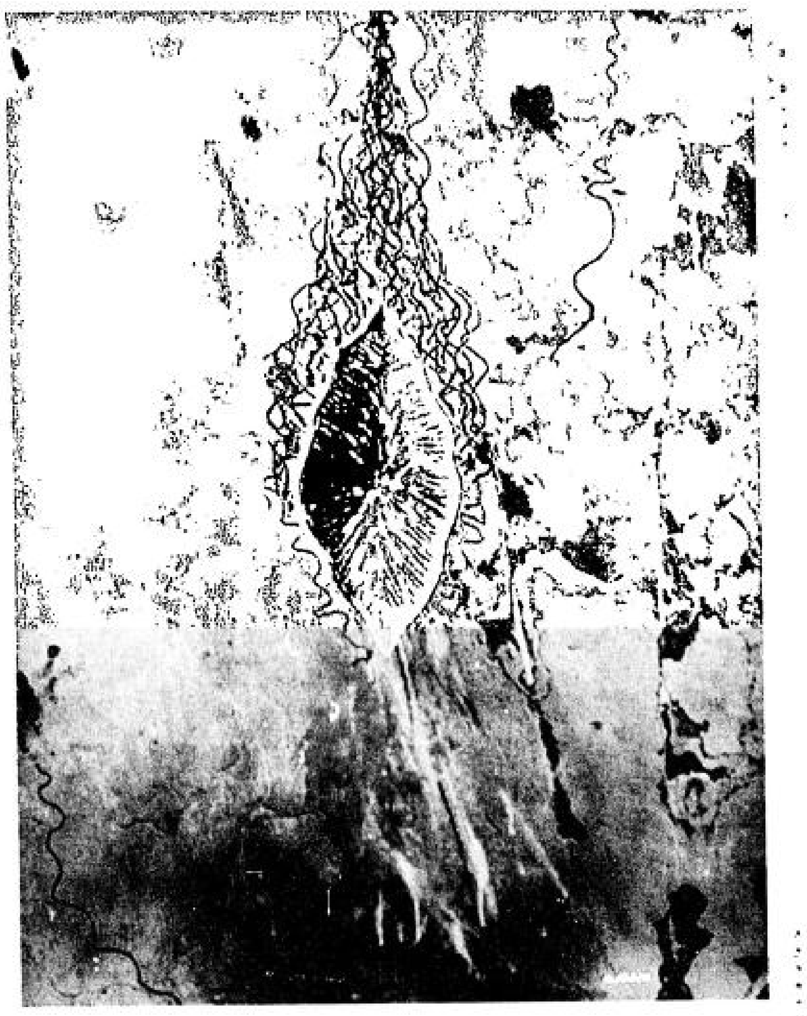
Obviously this is art that's symptomatic of a deeply troubled soul. But isn't the artist just too self-absorbed for comfort? Someone who's been gazing too long on his navel?

Instead of merely directing the viewer's gaze to his imagery, however, Sillada invites the viewer to also "go deeper and decipher the images in relation to their personal experiences." That should create psychological tension in the viewer.

We invite gallery-goers then to go see and drown themselves in this embarrassment of images. For starters, try viewing with composure that blazing image of the vagina in red, yellow, black and blue, and ruminate its title: "Menstrual Period in Political History."

Sillada took up Philosophy at Queen of Apostles Seminary in Davao, theological and postgraduate studies at University of Santo Tomas, and obtained his MBA from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

The artist is a married priest, and surely he's familiar with "the dark night of the soul." What anguish and rapture St. John of the Cross so perfervidly put into words, here Sillada is trying to flesh out into visible image.



"MENSTRUAL Period in Political History," by Danny Sillada

Chabet at Mag:Net, Cosio at Le Soufflé

THE ACT of looking, with its complex process and overlapping concepts of interpretation and perception, never fails to posit dilemmas. Searching for solutions to these dilemmas gives birth to whole new movements intent on dispelling prevailing notions. Roberto Chabet's latest exhibit "Untitled 2005 (notes on Johannes Vermeer)" running at the Mag:net Paseo Center, Makati City, on July 5-26, is a meditation on such a dilemma. Call 8177895 or email magnet@pldtdsl.net.

VISUAL ARTS

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery showcases "Graphic Paradigms" on July 5-17 at the 4th floor, Megamall A. The exhibit features paintings by Gerry Ingco, prints by Pandy Aviado and digital photographs by Richie Macapinlac and Mano de la Rosa. Call 6356061.

THE AYALA Museum features Loy Laurente's 15th solo exhibition on July 6-20. Laurente's signature style of pointillism captures his passion for nature.

BOSTON Gallery presents Sandra Fabie-Gfeller's "Nuances" until July 20 at the gallery's upper level. In this show, the artist takes a dancer's rehearsal as subject. Boston Gallery is located at 72 Boston St., Cubao, QC. Call 7229205.

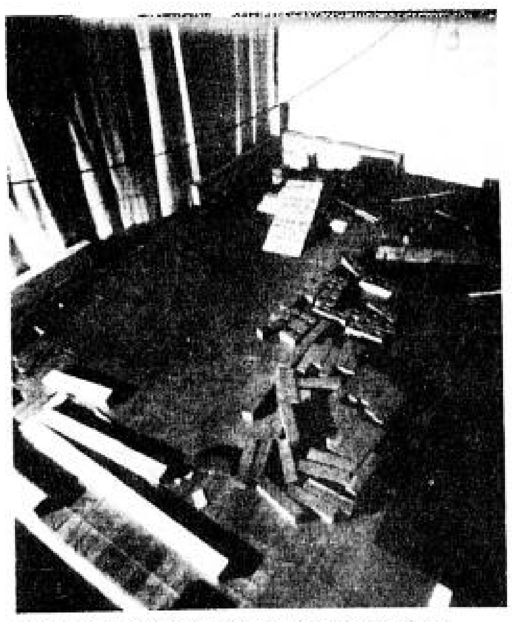
GALERIE Astra showcases Jose Ibay's "Body Language" on July 8-22 at LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel Air II, Makati. Ibay presents the expressive image through the entire body, with its varied repertory of gestures and movements. Call 8903988/ 7269015/ 7243032.

HIRAYA Gallery presents Eric Olestro's "The Last Glimmer of Summer" on July 9-28 at 530 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila. The artist takes viewers on a trek to the lush landscapes of the ancient town of Binangonan, founded by a Franciscan missionary in 1621 on the lakeshore of Laguna de Bay. Call 5233331.

ALLIANCE Française Total Gallery features "Umbra Penumbra" by Dante Perez and Maria Lourdes de Vera on July 11-29. Perez verges on enigmatic emotions while De Vera creates vignettes of cerebral calm and stark, dank irony. Alliance Francaise is located at 209 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. Call 8957441/ 8957585.

LE SOUFFLÉ Rockwell presents Ivi Avellana-Cosio's photos in an exhibit on July 12-Aug. 9. Le Soufflé is located in Amorsolo Square, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 8906543/ 8907630.

GALERIE de las Islas mounts Ronald Cortez's "The Gift of Life" on July 9-30 at the 3/F, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The exhibit is a collection of Cortez's recent works in pastel on paper, which are mainly representations of the Philippines and Filipinos and play-up genre, still life, Mother and Child. Call 5272113.



"UNTITLED 2005," by Roberto Chabet

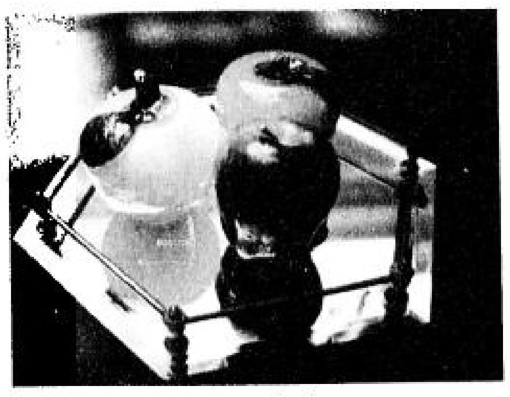
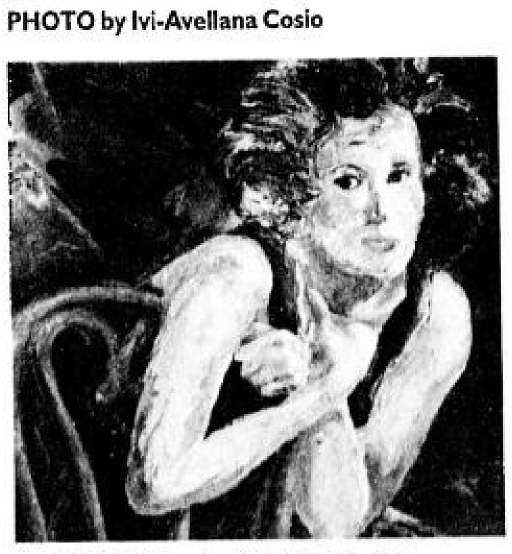


PHOTO by Ivi-Avellana Cosio



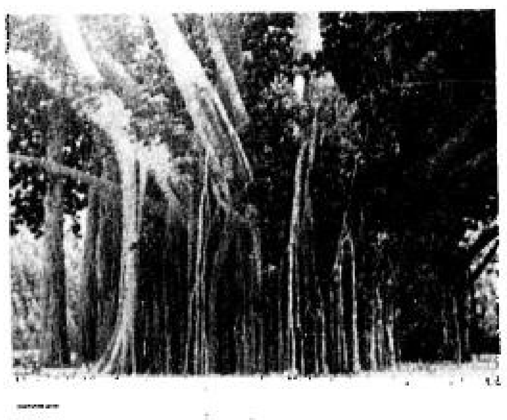
"NERVOUS Tension," by José A. Ibay

GALERIE Joaquin presents "Onib Olmedo: A Tribute" on July 26-Aug. 9. The exhibit gathers 16 Filipino visual artists whose lives and art-making were inspired or encouraged by the late artist. Participating artists are Mark Justiniani, Marcel Antonio, Emmanuel Garibay, Jason Moss, Yasmin Almonte, Federico Sievert, Lydia Velasco, Vincent Paul Padilla, Jerson Samson, Elmer Roslin, Riel Hilario, Carlo Angelo Saavedra, Gino Tioseco, Bayani Ray Alcala, Vincent de Pio and Sandra Fabie-Gfeller. Galerie Joaquin is located at the 2/F, 371 P. Guevarra St., Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7239253.

PINTO Art Gallery features the solo exhibitions of sculptor Joel Ajero, painter Jemina Reyes and abstractionists Jonathan Castro and Arden Mopera until Aug. 25. Pinto Art Gallery is located at 1 Sierra Madre St., Grand Heights, Antipolo City, Rizal. Call 6971015.

THE METROPOLITAN Museum of Manila presents "Vuhawan: Gold in Ivatan Life" until September. The exhibit features exquisite Ivatan gold ornaments. The Met Museum is located at BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila. Call 5237855/ 5361566/ 5211517.

AYALA Museum showcases Federico Alcuaz's "Passionate Eyes" on July 8-Oct. 2. The exhibit features over 200 artworks by Alcuaz selected from the collection of Benjamin Gayubar and Eddie and Norma Chua. Ayala Museum is located at the corner of Makati Avenue and De la Rosa Streets, Makati. Call 7577117 to 21.



"LAGUNA" 3, by Loy Laurente

INQUIRER columnist Tessa Prieto-Valdes poses in front of Acuna's paintings at Rustan's Essenses.

Ivan Acuna's 'Rhapsody' at Rustan's

EXPRESSIONIST painter Ivan Acuna is holding "Beauty in a Rhapsody of Color Palettes" until July 15 in Rustan's Makati. The show is sponsored by Rustan's Essenses.

The exhibit will benefit the Essenses foundation, which promotes women's causes. Every painting will also come with a special Essenses gift pack.

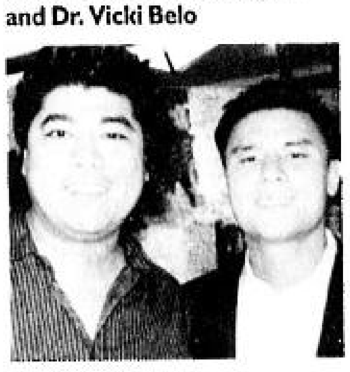
Acuna's interest in painting began when he was a grade schooler when he saw the works of Jose Joya.

But he started as a photographer. He was photographer of a book of Ben Cabrera paintings. He was also photographer of the "Pearl Road Book" by Jewelmer.

Acuna got his big break in the visual arts in 2001 when Budji Layug did the interior of the New French Cultural Building on Reposo Street Makati and used an Acuna work in the design. The painting sold.

According to Acuna, the beauty of abstract paintings is that they are never exact, and that they have no boundaries.

RUSTAN'S Rhoda Campos and Dr. Vicki Belo



ABSTRACT impressionist Ivan Acuna and Shopwise head Donnie Tantoco

Michael Cacnio's paternal . . .

From page D1

In these works, Cacnio certainly waxes nostalgic. He tells of how Mang Angel would rise early to take him and his siblings for bike rides or for jogging, after which they would have breakfast at the market or at Akong's Lugaw, popular among Malabon folk to this day. Such are the tributary scenes he has captured in honor of the man who not only sired him but cultivated in him a zeal for art and proper parenting.

The tree-climbing and piggyback ride with dad in "Horsey-Horsey" speak of the indulgence and happiness of childhood. By cleverly positioning their extremities through the painstakingly exacting malleability from brass, the thrill of the subjects is ably evoked despite the absence of facial expression.

This is also seen in "Fly," a man swinging a child with each hand, Maypole fashion.

The sculptor is also known for his use of physics. Included in this showcase is a mobile of kids in various poses of play, some hanging, others climbing, the over-all balance and depiction of movement again showing his skill in craft and composition.

It may be said that these are the "Kodak moments" of sculpture for they prod in the audience their own fond remembrances of past precious times with their parents and mirthful or tender instances with their own children. By rendering such moments, Michael Cacnio is, indeed, his father's son.

Call 6877302. E-mail author at jejaro2002@yahoo.com.

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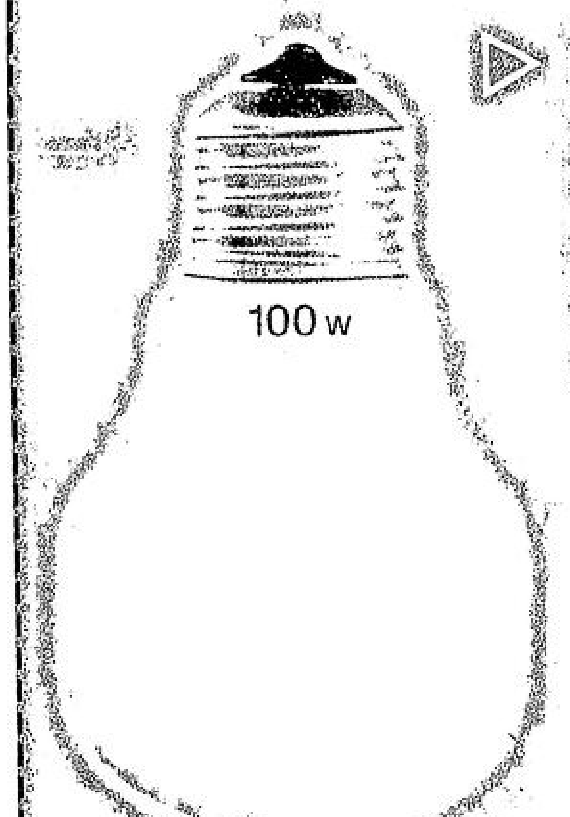

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5. Use lamps that give direct lighting [illegible]
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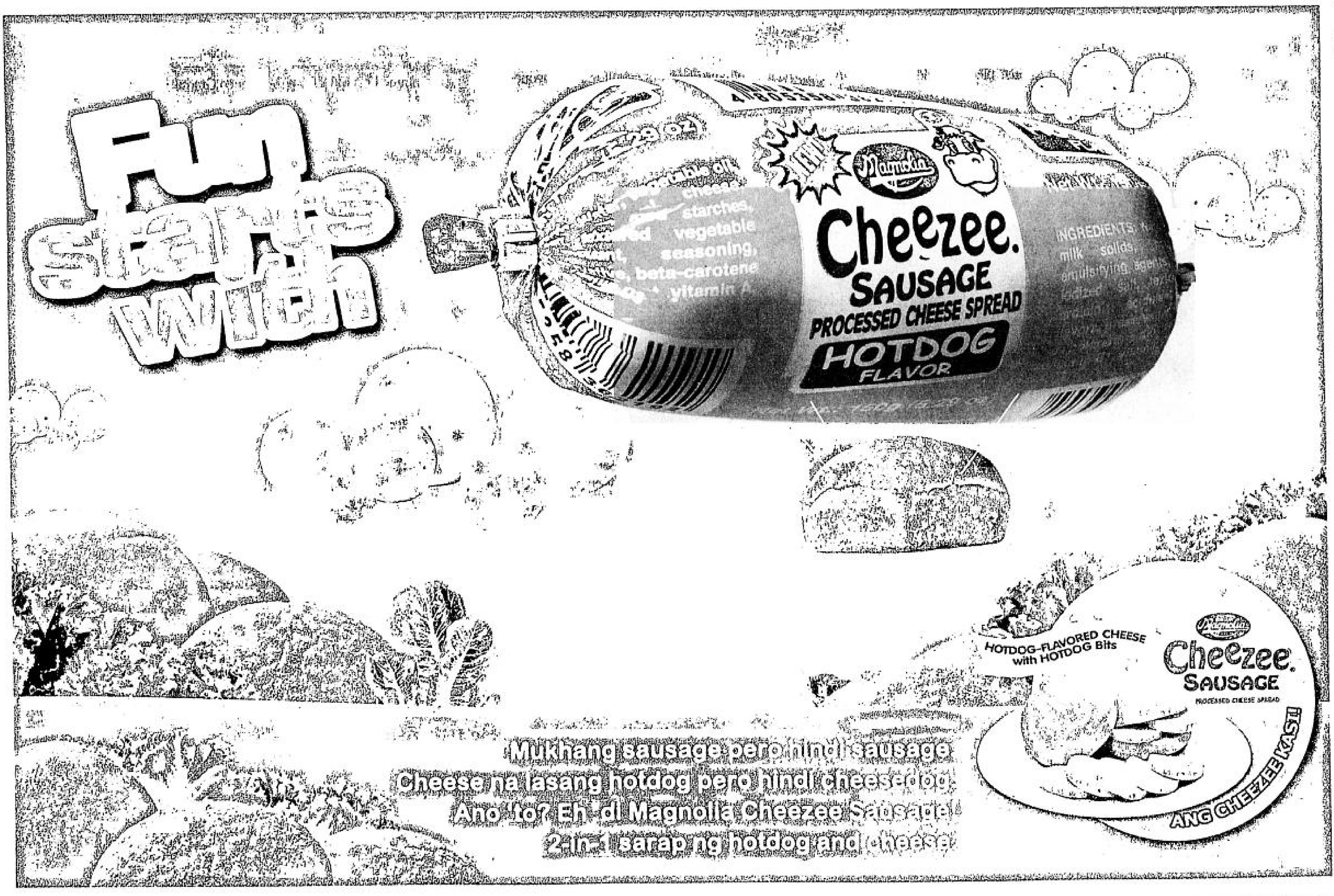

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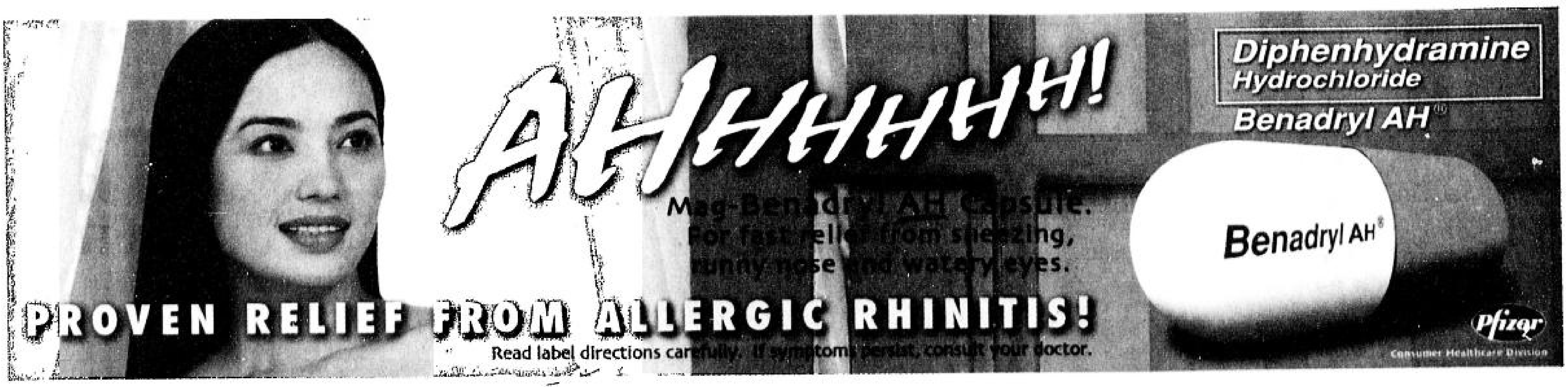

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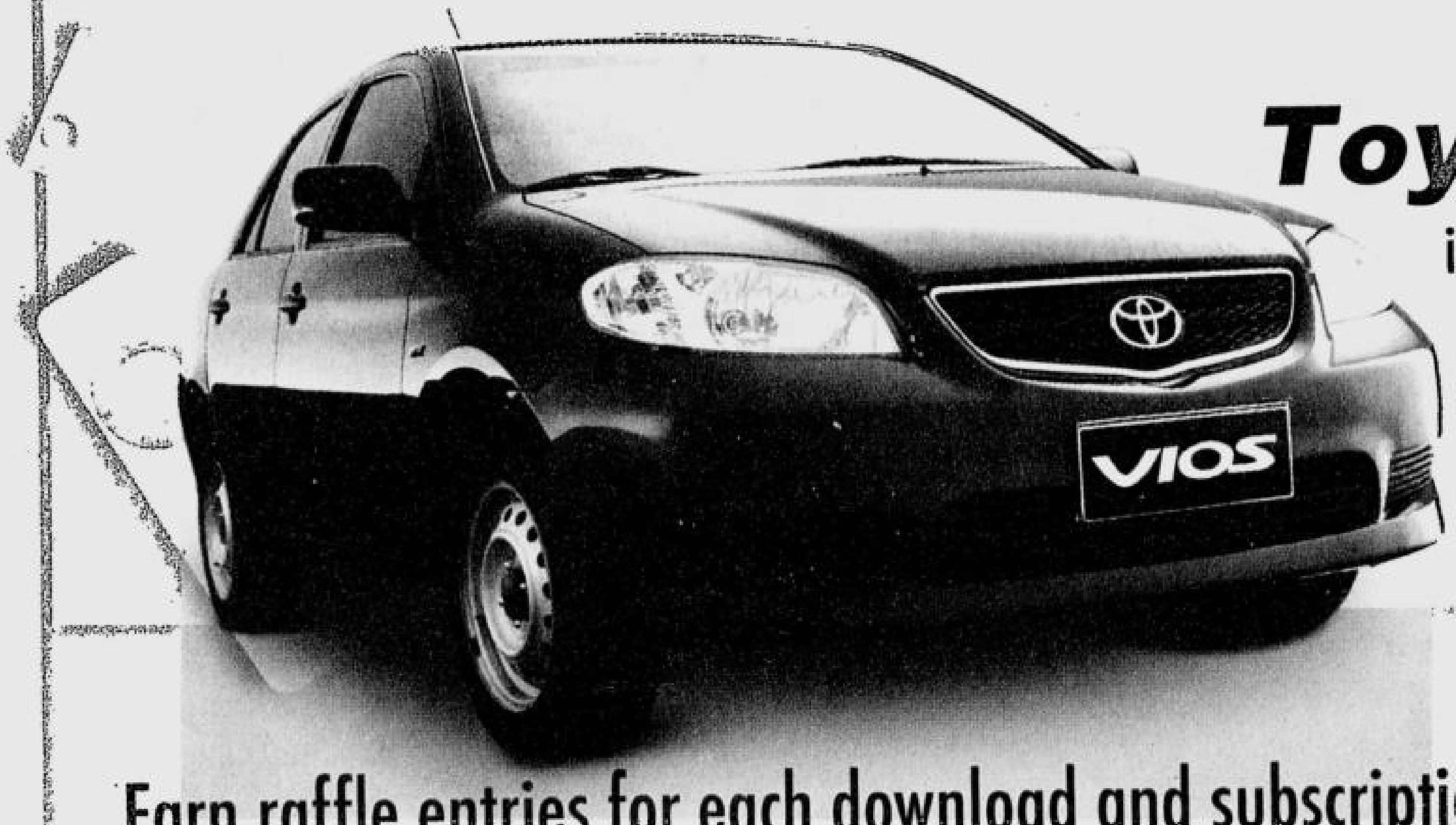

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Harry Potter
and the Half-Blood Prince
J. K. ROWLING

'Harry Potter' Book 6 takes flight July 16

JULY 16 marks the launch of the highly anticipated sixth Harry Potter book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

PowerBooks is inviting readers to participate in two competitions during the book's launch at Glorietta Activity Center.

The Harry Potter Trivia Contest will test readers' knowledge of "Harry Potter" incantations, spells, potions, magical events and mythical characters.

Those interested should register on or before July 9 at PowerBooks branches in Megamall, Alabang and Greenbelt.

The Create Your Own Harry Potter Scene contest requires participants to produce a diorama of their favorite "Harry Potter" scene. The contest is open to everyone. Entries should have a minimum size of 10" x 18" mounted on a 11" x 19" x 1" board, and a maximum size of 16" x 24" mounted on a 17" x 25" x 1" board.

The first prize winner will get a hardbound set of the "Harry Potter" Books 1 to 6 and P1,500 worth of PowerBooks gift certificate. The second prize winner will receive a hard copy of Book 6 and P1,500 in gift certificates. The third prize winner will take home P1,500 in gift certificates. Deadline of submission of entries is July 14, at PowerBooks Greenbelt.

Call PowerBooks Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang (8505662 to 63) and Glorietta (7527075).

'Batman Begins' book now available

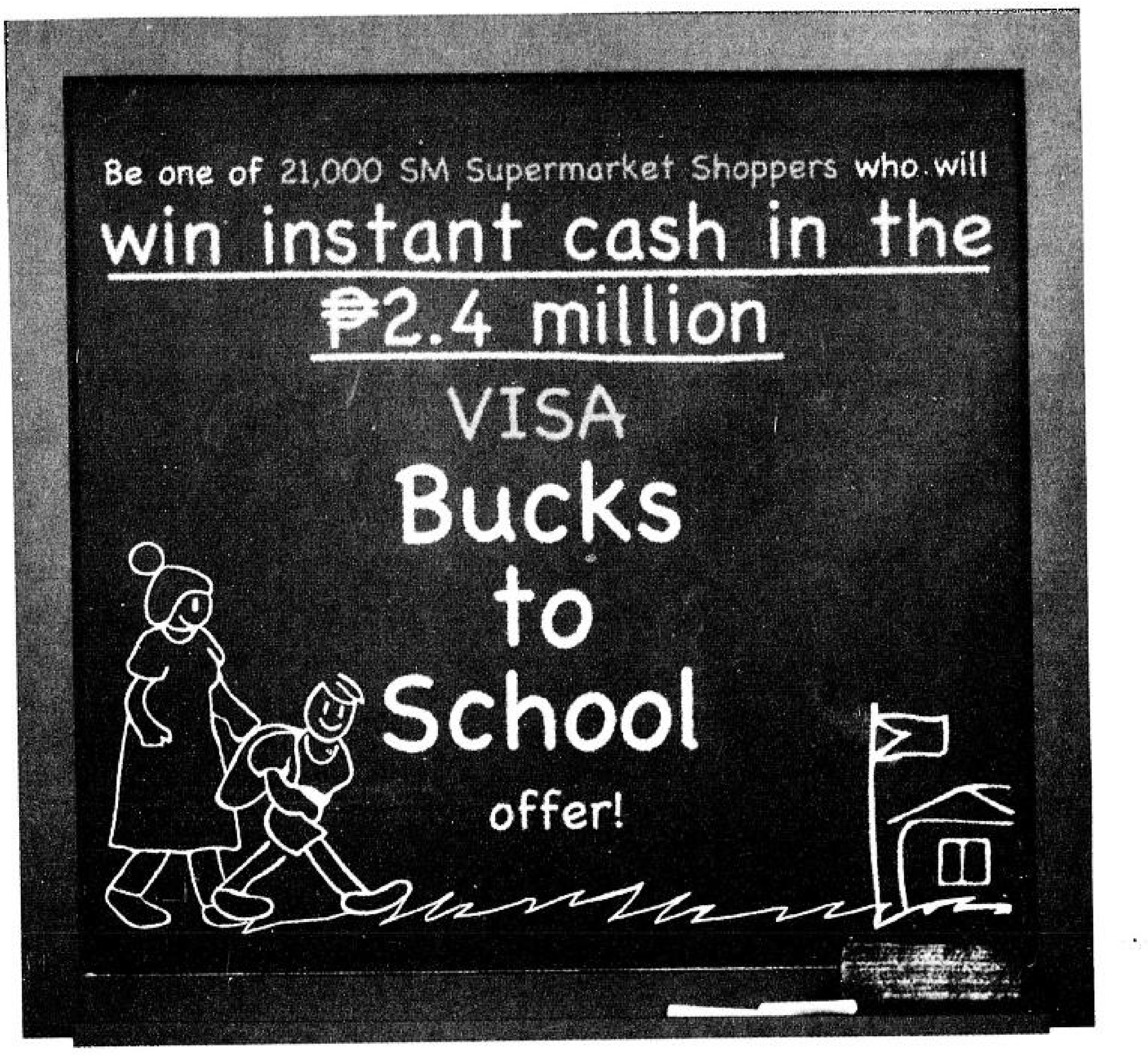
BATMAN BEGINS
THE OFFICIAL MOVIE GUIDE

"BATMAN Begins: The Official Movie Guide" is now available.

From director Christopher Nolan ("Memento," "Insomnia"), "Batman Begins" stars Christian Bale, Michael Caine and Liam Neeson. More than 150 of David James's magnificent photos will appear in the official "Batman Begins" book. Set alongside excerpts from the screenplay and short essays, the photographs will allow the reader to follow the arc of the film's story and marvel at the filmmaking magic on display—from the spectacular creation of the Batmobile, the Batcave and Gotham City to the breathtaking action set pieces.

"Batman Begins" explores the origins of Batman and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham City. In the wake of his parents' murder, disillusioned industrialist heir Bruce Wayne travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful. He returns to Gotham and unveils his alter-ego, Batman, the masked crusader who uses his strength, intellect and an array of high-tech weapons to fight the sinister forces that threaten the city.

This book is sure to be a wonderful addition to any Batman collection. "Batman Begins: The Official Movie Guide" is available at National Book Store.



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- Only purchases from SM Supermarkets nationwide made within the promo period (June 1 to July 15, 2005) shall be honored. Availing of the chance to win thru claiming of scratch card shall be within the promo period only. Drawing of scratch cards do not have to be on the same outlet nor the same day where purchase was made as long as it is within the promo period. All winning scratch cards shall contain an authenticated serial number approved and cleared with the Department of Trade and Industry.
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- Scratch card instant prize winners have until sixty (60) days from the end of the promo period, or until September 15, 2005 to claim their prize. Prizes not claimed within the 60-day period shall be forfeited in favor of the sponsor with prior approval from DTI.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0430, Series of 2005.

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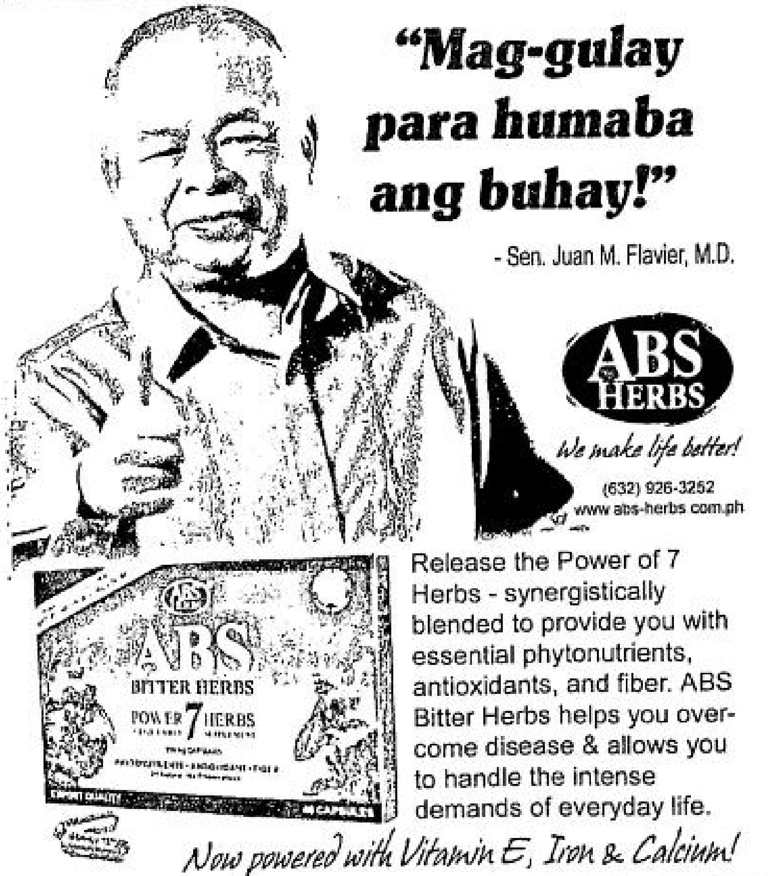
All it takes.

ATTENTION: MGA DIABETIKO!



"Mag-gulay para humaba ang buhay!"

- Sen. Juan M. Flavier, M.D.

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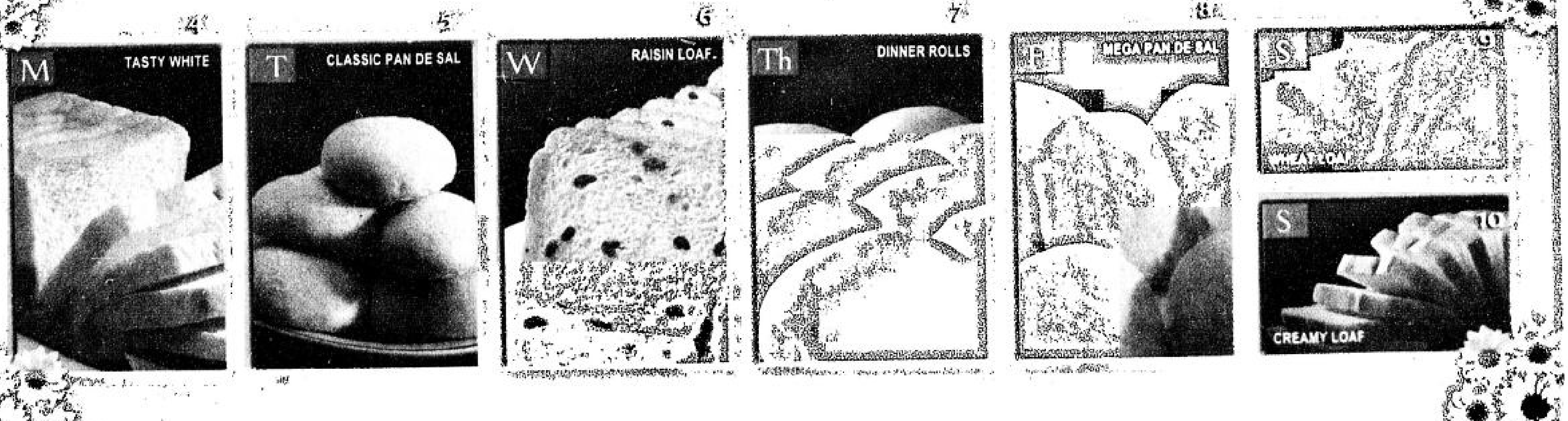

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Goldilocks
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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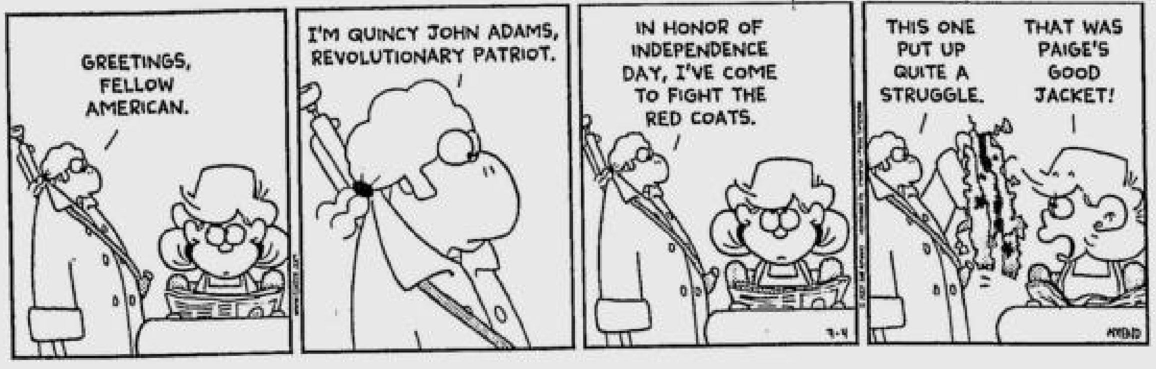
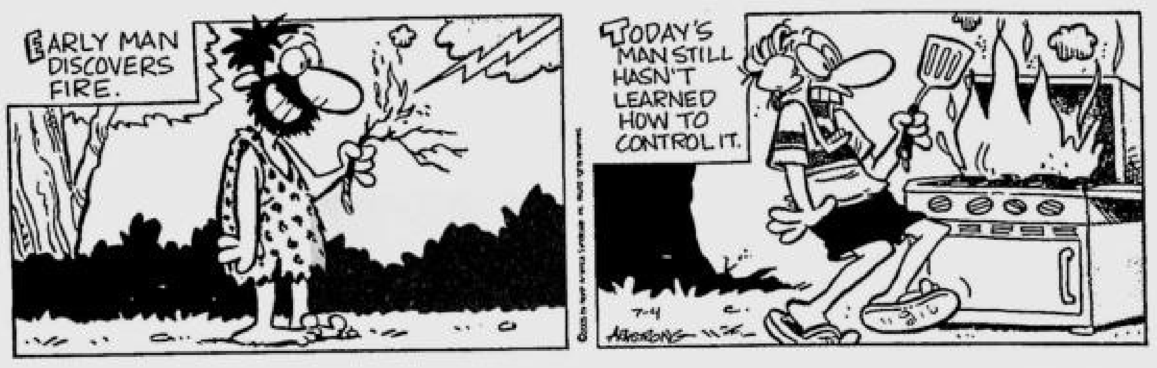
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


GREETINGS, FELLOW AMERICAN.
I'M QUINCY JOHN ADAMS, REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOT.
IN HONOR OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, I'VE COME TO FIGHT THE RED COATS.
THIS ONE PUT UP QUITE A STRUGGLE.
THAT WAS PAIGE'S GOOD JACKET!
7-4
AMEND

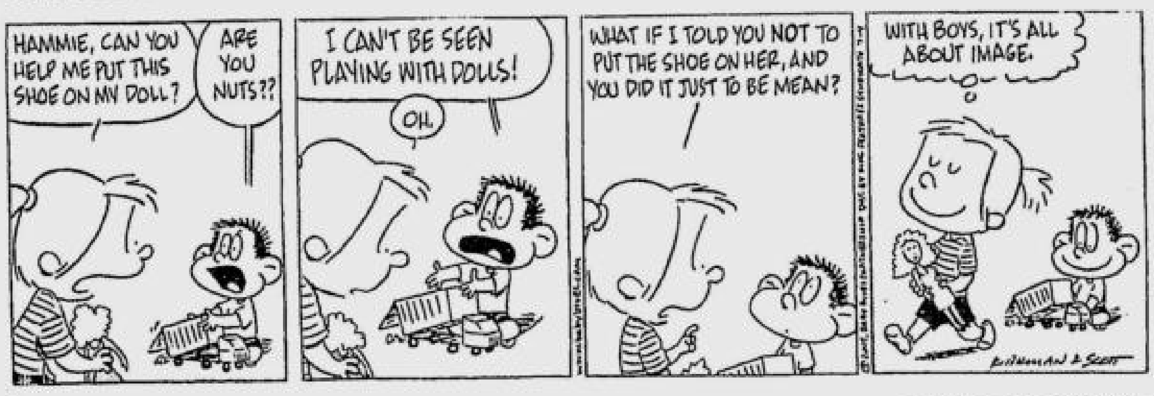
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


EARLY MAN DISCOVERS FIRE.
TODAY'S MAN STILL HASN'T LEARNED HOW TO CONTROL IT.
7-4
ARMSTRONG

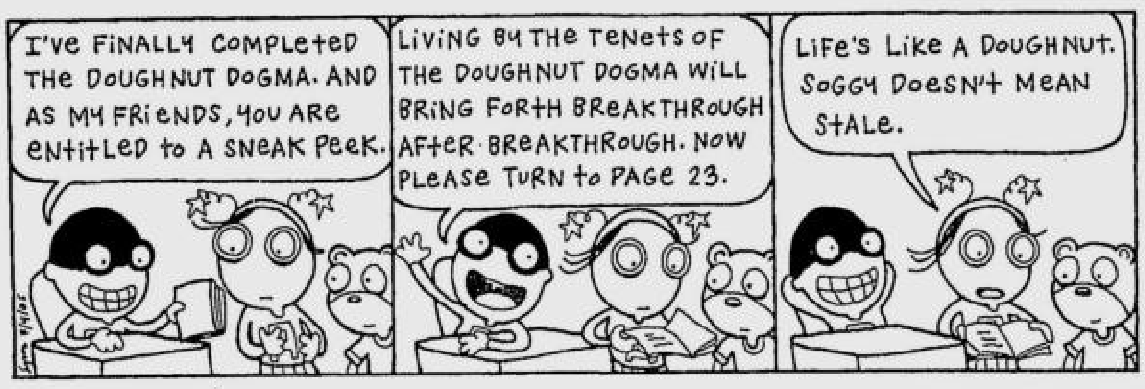
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE, CAN YOU HELP ME PUT THIS SHOE ON MY DOLL?
ARE YOU NUTS??
I CAN'T BE SEEN PLAYING WITH DOLLS!
OH.
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU NOT TO PUT THE SHOE ON HER, AND YOU DID IT JUST TO BE MEAN?
WITH BOYS, IT'S ALL ABOUT IMAGE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I've FINALLY COMPLETED THE DOUGHNUT DOGMA. AND AS MY FRIENDS, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A SNEAK PEEK.
LIVING BY THE TENETS OF THE DOUGHNUT DOGMA WILL BRING FORTH BREAKTHROUGH AFTER BREAKTHROUGH. NOW PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 23.
LIFE'S LIKE A DOUGHNUT. SOGGY DOESN'T MEAN STALE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a genuine materral concern for others. You also have strong domestic ideals. In fact, family is the bedrock of your values system. You need a warm, cozy nest to comfort you. You are always there for others. Some kind of major cycle will wrap up this year. (Time to move on.)
Birthdate of: Neil Simon, writer; George Steinbrenner, sports owner; Abigail Van Buren and Ann Landers (twins), advice columnists.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be gentle and cooperative with others today. You're tempted to try to boss people or persuade them to agree with you about something. Don't be pushy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Resist the urge to get obsessive about money or possessions. If you don't want to give something to someone, then don't. But don't get your belly in a rash about it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your encounters with others—especially partners and close friends—are intense today. That's because you're trying to improve or make over somebody, or somebody else is trying to do this to you! Not good.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel gripped by some strong emotions and don't know why. The Moon is in a hidden part of your chart today, and it opposes Pluto. This is always an obsessive, intense situation. (Relax; it'll be gone by tomorrow.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be diplomatic with others today. You're tempted to try to persuade someone to agree with you. Why bother? Let it go. Lighten up. (Life is short.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Avoid power struggles with parents and authority figures today. They will only lead to disgruntled feelings. In cases like this, nobody wins.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): People can be intense about religious and political beliefs. But in the end, everyone wants to be happy; nobody wants to be unhappy. Life is that simple. Just be kind to others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you don't want to lend something to someone today, that's OK. And if somebody doesn't want to lend something to you, that's OK too.

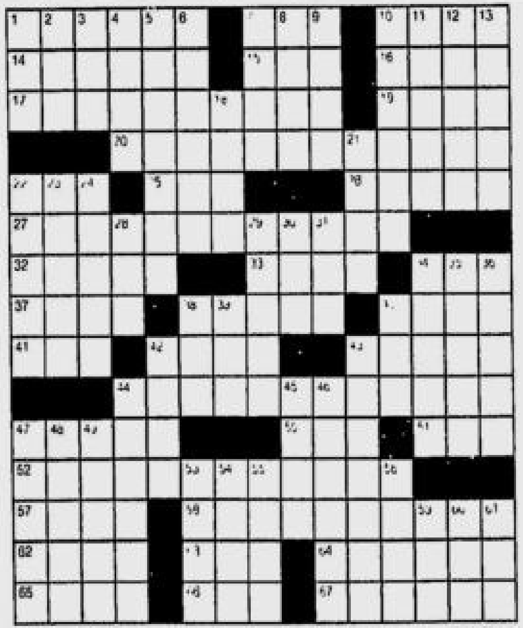
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be patient and gentle with close friends and partners. Today the Moon opposes your sign, and it also opposes Pluto. This can encourage power struggles.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have some strong ideas about how to make improvements to your health or to your job. Others don't have to agree with you. Just do what you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be patient with children today. And don't be jealous with lovers. There are a lot of confused feelings out there today. Don't overreact.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Ego conflicts with family members (especially parents) are likely today. Do these have to happen? No, they don't. You can avoid them by being patient, tolerant and diplomatic. Easy!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

7/4/05

ACROSS
1 Prior to
7 Hoodwinked
10 Silent-screen siren
14 Egglike
15 Corrida cheer
16 First victim
17 Jumping infantry
19 Adorable
20 The Chairmen of the Board
22 Cleopatra biter
25 Aardvark snack
26 Gusset in a blouse
27 Action recipient
32 Join forces
33 World-class
34 Queue after Q
37 "Rama __ Ding Dong"
38 Flops
40 Diamond name
41 Draw
42 Onion, for one
43 DNA structure
44 Funt's show
47 Paradigm
50 Silver of "Timecop"
51 Crosses (out)
52 Untrue love?
57 Cheerful tune
58 Speak glowingly
62 Put one's two cents in?
63 Boyz II __
64 Underground passage
65 Type of admiral
66 Tibetan ox
67 Provided capital for

DOWN
1 Tatum's jazz
2 One Gabor
3 Mammalian coat
4 Norwegian saint
5 Exhausting routine
6 Straying
7 Catchy refrain
8 Jungfrau locale
9 Lucy's partner
10 Unoccupied
11 Touches up against
12 French measure
13 Dress fold
18 Aware of
21 Riviera resort
22 Kind of supervision
23 Six Day War battleground
24 First in degree
28 Hellenic vowel
29 Thumper's playmate
30 Piece of work
31 Minnesota's twins?
34 Upscale watch
35 Steeple top
36 Baylor University state
38 Burger holder
39 Part of GOP
40 Stitched border
42 Healing ointment
43 Stamping ground
44 Midpoint
45 Stalactite producer
46 Freewheels
47 Back tooth
48 Speak one's mind
49 River mouth
53 Kind of brat
54 Ostrichlike bird
55 Relative position
56 Author Ferber
59 Squid squirt
60 NY's Tappen __ Bridge
61 Antiquity, in antiquity

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

I	B	I	S	E	S	█	S	T	A	M	P	A	C	T
M	U	S	I	A	L	█	T	E	R	R	I	B	L	E
P	L	A	T	T	E	█	E	N	M	I	T	I	E	S
A	I	D	█	█	W	A	R	D	█	█	S	L	A	T
S	M	O	T	E	█	L	E	E	R	S	█	E	V	E
T	I	R	E	D	█	M	O	R	A	L	█	N	O	R
O	C	A	R	I	N	A	█	S	T	A	M	E	N	S
█	█	█	S	T	Y	█	█	█	E	Y	E	█	█	█
O	S	C	E	O	L	A	█	P	R	E	T	E	S	T
P	T	A	█	R	O	C	K	Y	█	R	A	T	E	S
T	A	R	█	S	N	E	E	R	█	S	L	A	V	E
I	N	C	A	█	█	T	E	E	N	█	█	G	E	T
C	L	A	N	S	M	A	N	█	E	M	B	E	R	S
A	E	S	T	H	E	T	E	█	S	O	I	R	E	E
L	E	S	S	E	N	E	D	█	T	O	T	E	R	S

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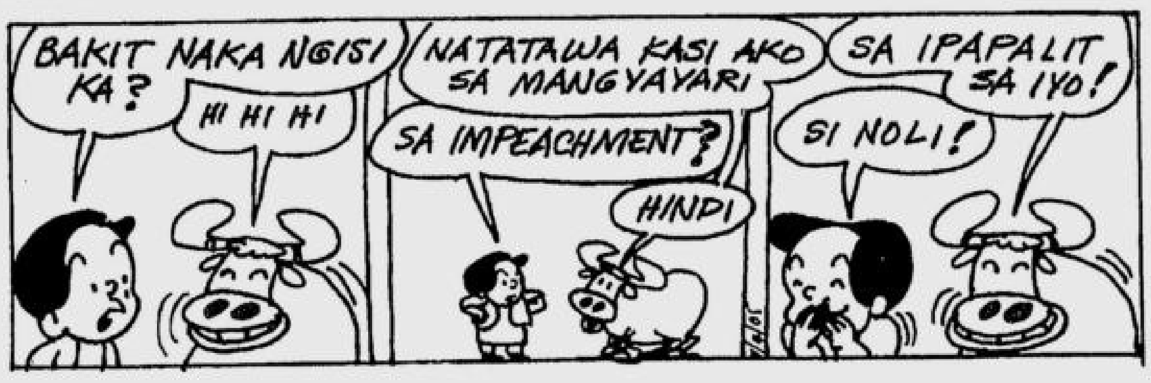
7/4/05

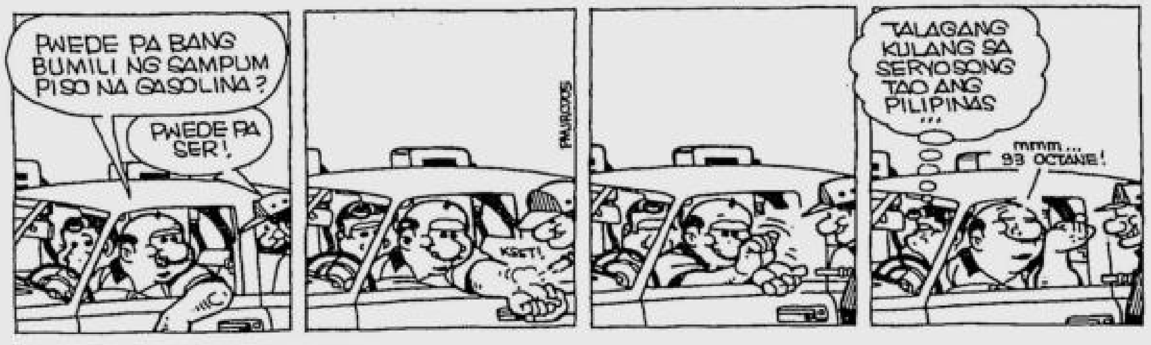
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT NAKA NGISI KA?
HI HI HI
NATATAWA KASI AKO SA MANGYAYARI
SA IMPEACHMENT?
HINDI
SA IPAPALIT SA IYO!
SI NOLI!

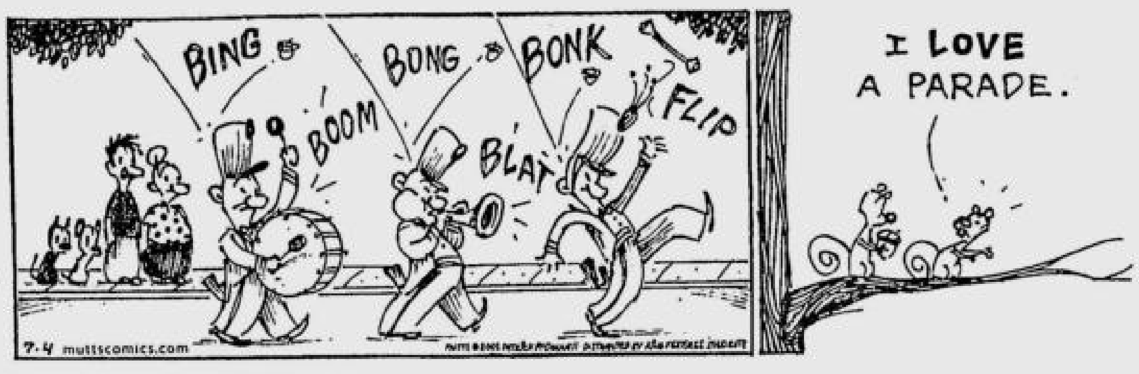
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PWEDE PA BANG BUMILI NG SAMPUM PISO NA GASOLINA?
PWEDE PA SER!
PAURODS
KSST!
TALAGANG KULANG SA SERYOSONG TAO ANG PILIPINAS ...
mmm... 93 OCTANE!

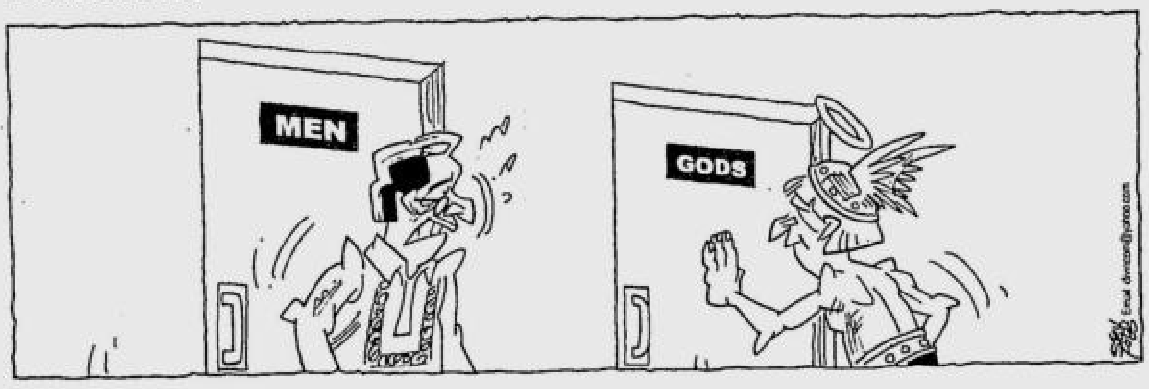
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BING
BOOM
BONG
BONK
BLAT
FLIP
I LOVE A PARADE.
7-4 muttscomics.com

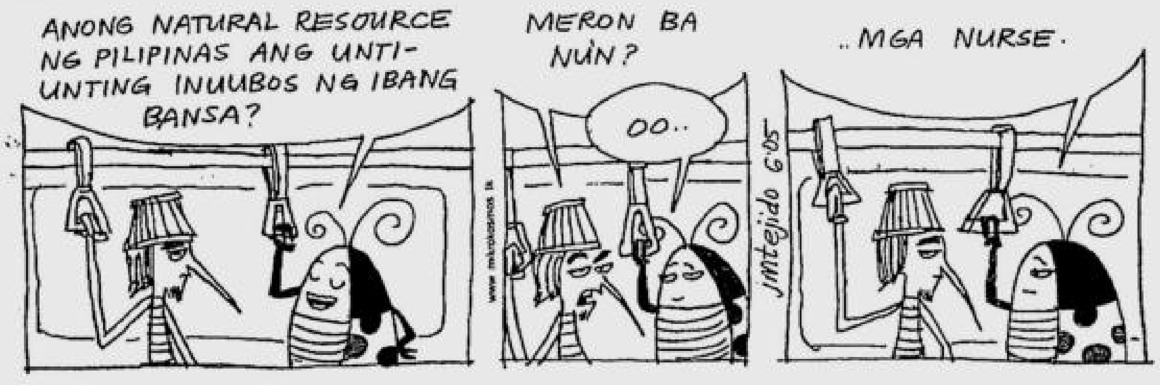
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



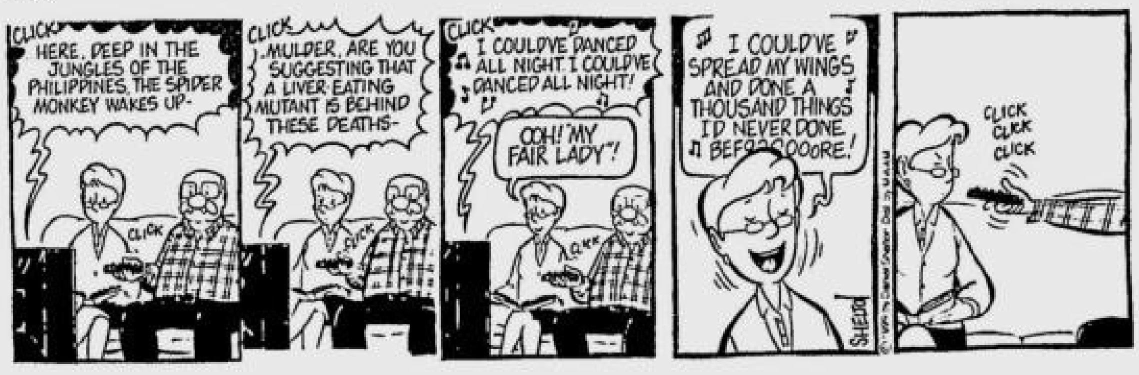
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANONG NATURAL RESOURCE NG PILIPINAS ANG UNTI-UNTING INUUBOS NG IBANG BANSA?
MERON BA NUN?
OO..
..MGA NURSE.
jmtejido 6'05

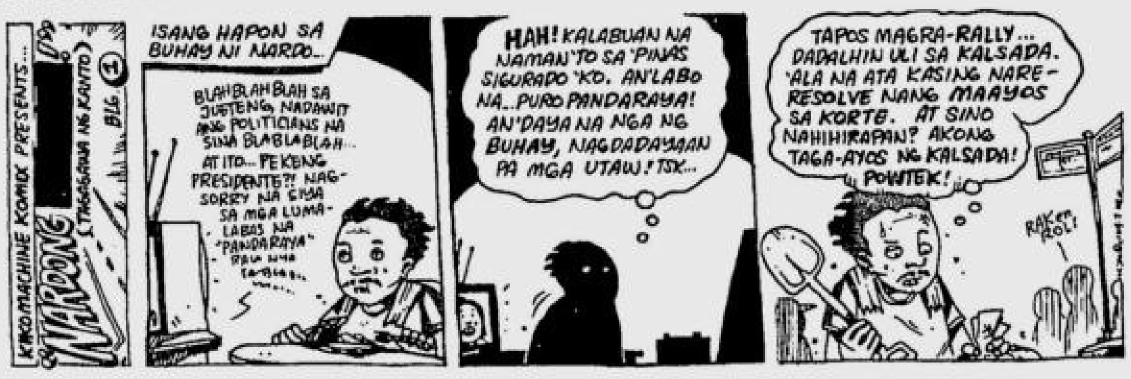
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


CLICK
HERE, DEEP IN THE JUNGLES OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE SPIDER MONKEY WAKES UP-
CLICK
CLICK
MULDER, ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT A LIVER-EATING MUTANT IS BEHIND THESE DEATHS-
CLICK
CLICK
I COULD'VE DANCED ALL NIGHT. I COULD'VE DANCED ALL NIGHT!
OOH! "MY FAIR LADY"!
CLICK
I COULD'VE SPREAD MY WINGS AND DONE A THOUSAND THINGS I'D NEVER DONE BEFOOOOORE!
SHELTON
CLICK CLICK CLICK

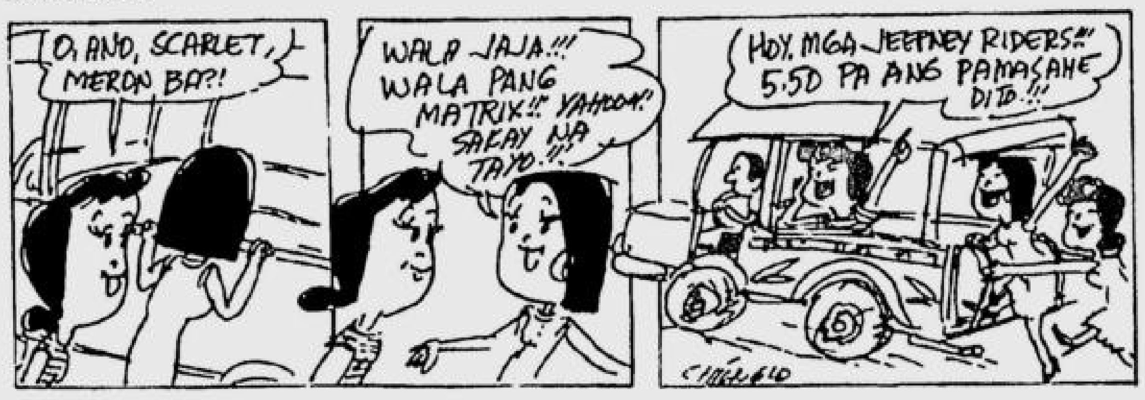
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINE KOMIX PRESENTS...
NARDONG (TAGASAWA NG KANTO)
ISANG HAPON SA BUHAY NI NARDO..
BLAHBLAHBLAH SA JUETENG, NADAWIT ANG POLITICIANS NA SINA BLABLABLAH... AT ITO... PEKENG PRESIDENTE?! NAG-SORRY NA SIYA SA MGA LUMALABAS NA "PANDARAYA"
HAH! KALABUAN NA NAMAN 'TO SA 'PINAS SIGURADO 'KO. AN'LABO NA.. PURO PANDARAYA! AN'DAYA NA NGA NG BUHAY, NAGDADAYAAN PA MGA UTAW! TSK...
TAPOS MAGRA-RALLY... DADALHIN ULI SA KALSADA. 'ALA NA ATA KASING NARERESOLVE NANG MAAYOS SA KORTE. AT SINO NAHIHIRAPAN? AKONG TAGA-AYOS NG KALSADA! POWTEK!
RAKEN ROLL

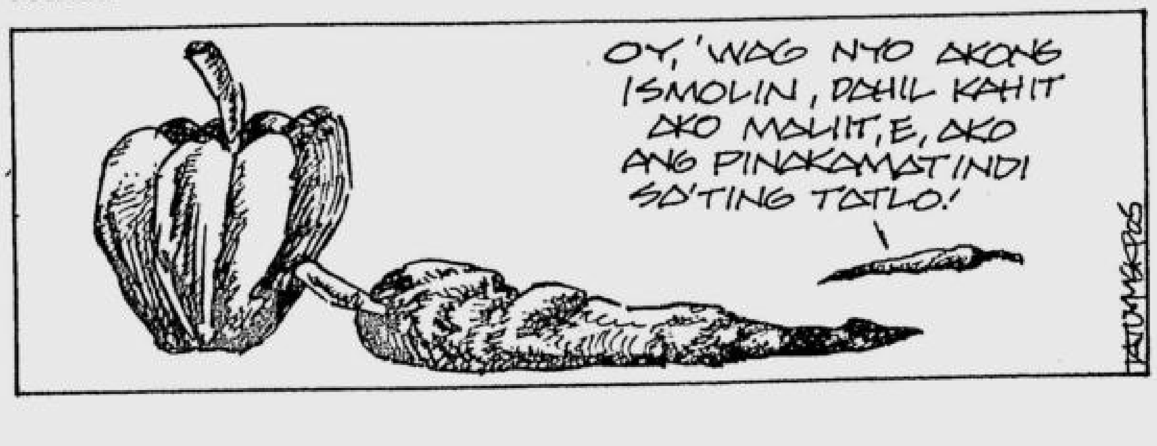
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


O, ANO, SCARLET, MERON BA?!
WALA JAJA!!! WALA PANG MATRIX!! YAHOO! SAKAY NA TAYO!!!
HOY, MGA JEEPNEY RIDERS!! 5.50 PA ANG PAMASAHE DITO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, 'WAG NYO AKONG ISMOLIN, DAHIL KAHIT AKO MALIIT, E, AKO ANG PINAKAMATINDI SO'TING TATLO!
TATUM 05

PLDT'S INNOLAB: *Hotbed of Innovation*

Until Pedro can figure out how a new system can be implemented in a call center to double its capacity, it's a multi-million dollar waste of space. Pedro doesn't work in just one call center, but for almost all of them. His favorite place to work is a call center that takes up a single room, with two-dimensional agents, a mere handful of seats, but boasting the world's most advanced equipment. Pedro is an IT engineer working at PLDT's Innolab.

"The Innovation Laboratory, or Innolab is proof of the heightened level of commitment of PLDT group in creating a facility that serves as a catalyst for technology innovation and business development," said PLDT president and CEO Poly Nazareno during the 2nd anniversary of Innolab this June.

"Upon its launching in 2003, Innolab has been recognized as a Philippine first," said PLDT SVP Eric Alberto. Innolab started small on the 5th floor of the PLDT building in Boni Avenue that year. Today, it sprawls over all 6 floors as a hotbed of industrial simulations for banks, resorts, and even a network control center more akin to Mission Control at NASA. "I stand here before you with much pride, with the commitment of your telecommunications market leader that we will continue to support our country in our efforts to accelerate the development of ICT by leaps and bounds," added Alberto.

"The industry is approaching a new era, a new inflection point, and a new future. It is our conviction at PLDT that the key to that future will continue to be innovation," said PLDT chairman Manny Pangilinan. Foundation partners from world leading technology companies Avaya, GIS, IBM, Intel, Jimac, Microdata, Microsoft, Prosoft, and Veritas all joined PLDT brass on stage to mark the greatest high-tech collaboration in the country's history.

BIG ANSWERS AT THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST TECHNOFEST

Innolab aims to build client confidence that all PLDT custom designed solutions are working before being implemented. Clients small, medium and large can see for themselves what tailor-made applications hold the most promise for their operations. Each product brings together world leading technology, and the combined strength and resources of the PLDT group, to deliver a total end to end solution to the market. Clients can see solutions actually working in test modules under simulated conditions.

The welcome at Innolab's hotel lobby with the winding, carpeted stairway is actually the testing area for Hotel and Resort Solutions such as wireless and wired broadband access through PLDT PORT.

Inventory control applications for retail business such as PLDT's Shops.work can be tested in terminals at Innolab's own café.

Put Innolab's simulated bank through a natural disaster and see how PLDT Continuum provides uninterrupted service under a worst case scenario.

PLDT's current clients in the local contact center industry increase service capacity and maximize existing equipment through PLDT's exclusive partnership with Avaya, the world leader in call center solutions.

Discover next generation fleet and personnel tracking with PLDT F.A.S.Track. An Innolab solution awaits every business.

Innolab is set to calm client concerns over new applications and technology. Applications are battle tested at Innolab in real-life and extreme conditions and situations before being implemented by the client. Innolab can train your staff to "live the solution" before actual deployment. Innolab gives PLDT the ability to deliver the complete end to end service and solutions package.

"We have always believed that solutions are what we need to sell, not equipment. I am glad that Innolab shows that PLDT is into selling solutions rather than equipment and services," said Virgilio Pena, chairman of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT).

"There is no doubt that is its operations will boost public awareness of state of the art applications for our business and industrial sectors, strengthen and upgraded the skills and capabilities of our knowledge workers, and fortify our country's position as a world class service provider," said DTI Secretary Juan Santos in speech delivered on his behalf during the event.

Innolab pacifies risk-averse New-Tech investors, because they know it works before they pay for it. IT innovations become the true logical tools for the bottom line, not daunting variables. Innolab's PLDT engineers, after all make sure the things work, nullifying the dreaded "What If" question.

As the forefront of information and communications technology in the country, Innolab will serve as a collaborative venue between the government, the private sector, and the academe. PLDT believes that the use of technology is of greater importance than the technology itself. Innolab puts the world best technology in the hands of the people shaping our country.

AN INVITATION TO INNOLAB

Want to take a trip to Innolab? Just ask your relationship manager to arrange a tour for you. You can also make arrangements on www.pldt.com.ph, or contact us by phone on 874-7474 or 1-800-BIZSOL, or by email at bizsol@pldt.com. Come see what it's like to stay ahead of tomorrow.

Innolab partners (L-R) Danny Tan, JIMAC, Inc. President; Mariano Ang, Microdata Systems, Inc. President; Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT Chairman; Mark Leigh, Avaya-Asia Pacific President; Simon Gainsford , Progressive Software, Inc. President; Raymond Bemoquillo, Intel South East Asia Telecoms Manager; Al Ramon Dela Cruz, Veritas Country Sales Manager; Erick Olarides, Sales Manager, Microsoft Phils.; Ms. Celeste Ilagan, Executive Director, BOI; Bo Lundqvist, Global Implementation Services, Inc. COO; Sec. Virgilio Pena, CICT Chairman; Napoleon Nazareno, PLDT President & CEO; Joaquin Quintos, IV, IBM Phils. President and Eric Alberto, PLDT SVP Corp. Business Group

Manny Pangilinan, Joaquin Quintos.IV of IBM, and CICT Chairman Virgilio Peña, share a laugh with SVP Eric Alberto.

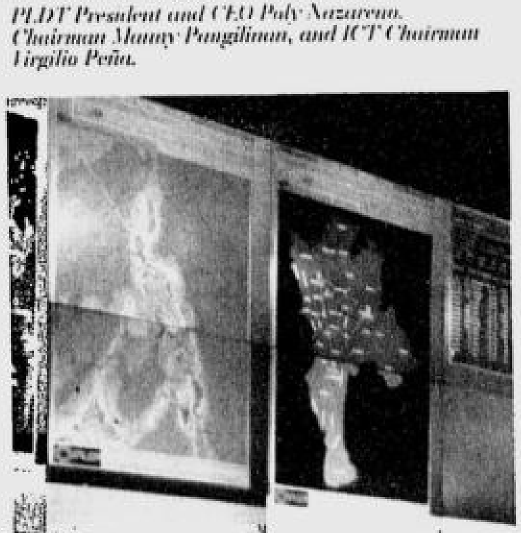
Wireless Internet on Innolab's Resort Solutions area.

PLDT's chief innovator, chairman Manny Pangilinan.

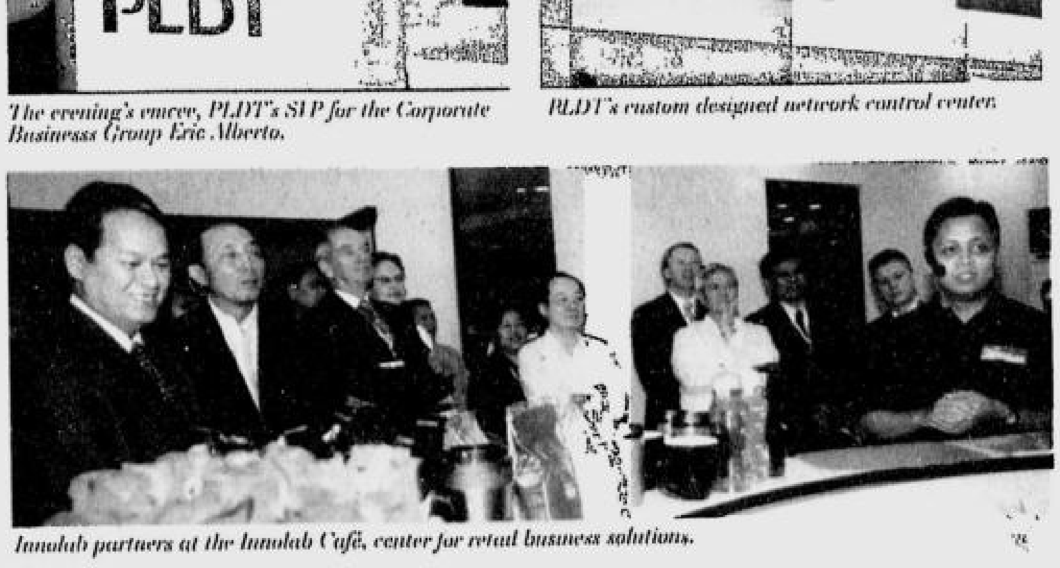
PLDT FVP for the Corporate Business Group Nerissa Ramos with BOI executive director Celeste Ilagan.

PLDT President and CEO Poly Nazareno, Chairman Manny Pangilinan, and ICT Chairman Virgilio Peña.

The evening's emcee, PLDT's SVP for the Corporate Businesss Group Eric Alberto.



PLDT's custom designed network control center.



Innolab partners at the Innolab Café, center for retail business solutions.

Mind, body and spirit in new Mr. & Ms

THE FIRST issue of Mr. & Ms as a monthly magazine focuses on mind, body and spirit.

Read about Borgy Manotoc and Bianca Gonzalez and their passion for yoga. Get to know Sen. Jamby Madrigal as the wife of Eric Valade, a faith healer.

Find out Emily Abrera's conversations with her late husband, Caloy, through a medium. Learn about *feng shui*, *gayuma*, self-hypnosis, palm reading and spiritual exercises. Find out the key to happy life according to mystical couple Frank and Riza Regis.

Read about the life and times of Pope Benedict XVI and the late Pope John Paul II.

Learn about dwarves from Jaime T. Licauco.

In existence for nearly 30 years, Mr. & Ms has transformed from a weekly to a monthly on spirituality. The new publisher and editor is Eugenia Apostol, founder of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The magazine is available at Filbar's, Rustan's, Merriam & Webster, Total Petroleum, Bufini, Unimart and Mio's at the Podium.

The magazine is circulated nationwide.

Mr. & Ms
P100
BORGY MANOTOC
BIANCA GONZALEZ
Body, Mind, Spirit
In harmony
Senator Jamby Madrigal and hubby Eric Valade on Spiritual Health
EmilyAbrera "talks" to Caloy via a medium
Celebrities on ghosts
Palm Reading★
Feng Shui★
Mind Control★
Self-Hypnosis★
Meditation★
★ Jaime T. Licauco's DWARVES
Frank and Riza Regis talk about ghost busting and crystal healing
NOW 100 PAGES
Mr. & Ms. Centerfold ENCANTADIA
Star Wars Mystic

METRO
Weddings
How to plan an elegant wedding for P150,000
Bridal bouquets for all budgets
Best bargains for wedding supplies in Quiapo
Cleansing programs for couples
Jodi Santamaria's secret to a happy marriage
Expanded reception venue directory

Tantoco clan graces Metro Society

THE JULY issue of Metro Society features Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco and his grandchildren on the cover.

Photographed by Bengy Toda, the special gatefold cover sets the mood for exclusive features on noble families and clan reunions.

A photo essay on the generations shot by Jojo Guingona and written by Patricia Barcelon features the Ortigases, Turalbas, Eduques and the Cojuangcos, and the grand reunions of the Tuasons and Paternos.

Other special features are on Benpres Holdings' Oscar Lopez, Joey Concepcion, James Ferragamo and 8-year-old go-kart racer Alessandra Madrigal. Also featured are Gina de Venecia's photographs of the heads of state and other dignitaries at the papal funeral.

Meanwhile, Metro Weddings Magazine shows couples how to celebrate in style and still save enough for the future. The cover bride is actress Jodi Santamaria, who is the new Ms Panfilo Lacson Jr.

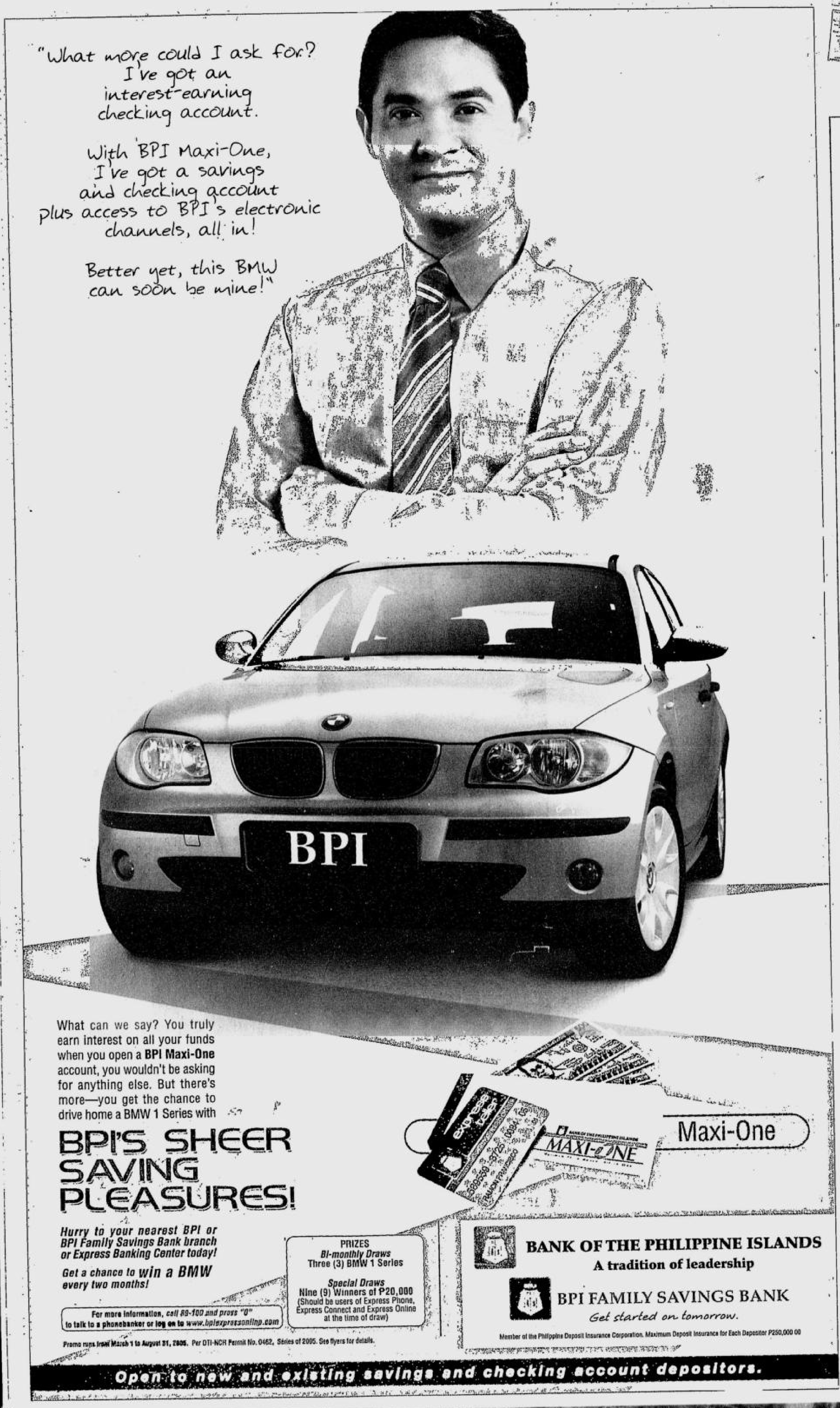
The issue also provides couples ideas on how to have a fabulous wedding for under P150,000. It features wedding bargains from Quiapo, ways to beat pre-wedding stress through spa getaways, detox programs and proper breathing techniques, and non-traditional wedding reception venues.

Metro Home and Entertaining magazine's Apartment Special features design trends for fashionable condos—from ethnic eclectic to ultra-modern.

Readers can get the chance to win P200,000 worth of living room showcase in the magazine's Before and After home makeover promo by Federal Design Expo, the lifestyle center on Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati.

Metro Society, Metro Weddings and Metro Home & Entertaining are published by ABS-CBN Publishing. Call 4152272, locals 4656 to 58.

Win a living room showcase worth P200,000!
METRO
Home
& Entertaining
28 design trends for fashionable condos
Apartment special


"What more could I ask for? I've got an interest-earning checking account.

With BPI Maxi-One, I've got a savings and checking account plus access to BPI's electronic channels, all in!

Better yet, this BMW can soon be mine!"

BPI

What can we say? You truly earn interest on all your funds when you open a **BPI Maxi-One** account, you wouldn't be asking for anything else. But there's more—you get the chance to drive home a BMW 1 Series with

BPI'S SHEER SAVING PLEASURES!

Hurry to your nearest BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center today!

Get a chance to win a BMW every two months!

For more information, call 89-100 and press "0" to talk to a phonebanker or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

PRIZES
Bi-monthly Draws
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League of Corporate Foundations

Beyond Giving
Business Solutions To Social Problems

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXPO 2005:

Why RP Business Needs to do Good to do Good

THE website of The Robin Hood Foundation says it all.

"Fighting illiteracy, brightening the day for 75,000 kids in day care, helping protect 40,000 breasts from cancer, developing text mobile for the blind, inspiring 20,000 employees to volunteer, self confidence for 40,000 teenagers, funding counseling to 470 young people a day, media technology for 5,000 pre-schoolers, helping save 9,000 lives at sea.

"Not bad for a bunch of selfish, uncaring, profit driven, money grubbing, no-good, stinking capitalists."

Business is not often viewed as a do-gooder. Despite the central role it plays in transforming lives through its various development work, often it is suspected or accused of shaking the hands of the poor and handing check donations to mayors to be portrayed as "philanthropic."

But many companies are discovering that corporate philanthropy is not enough to make an impact. To continue to do good, business must also do good commercially to be able to sustain their contributions to communities.

The Corporate Social Responsibility Expo 2005, organized by the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF), is a marketplace of ideas on how companies can sustain their commitment to carrying out their corporate social responsibility (CSR) by integrating their CSR into their business operations. This year's Expo theme, "Beyond Giving," offers a fresh look at CSR as more than philanthropy but a vehicle to apply business solutions to social problems.

"We call on business to take the paradigm shift, to make corporate responsibility part and parcel of a business' way of life, and extend help not just by giving, but ensuring that there are efforts to sustain this help," said Marilou Erni, executive director of Petron Foundation, who also chairs the three-day CSR Expo 2005. She said the CSR Expo 2005 uses the symbol stepping stones to dramatize that these changes will have to be taken one step at a time.

Stand for Something

CSR Expo 2005 boasts of a dynamic line-up of respected CSR practitioners and business leaders from here and abroad. Key speakers who flew to Manila for the Expo include Louis Willem "Tex" Gunning, the group vice president—South East Asia and Australasia, Unilever Asia Pte. Ltd. and Jude Mannion, founder and CEO of New Zealand's The Robin Hood Foundation which has elevated CSR into a "must-have" for business.

She used to head million-dollar companies such as Kellogg's, cosmetic maker Elizabeth Arden, and Hallmark with business running across more than a dozen countries in the Asia Pacific. After leading a highly successful capitalist life, Mannion founded The Robin Hood Foundation three years ago in New Zealand and made the shift to become the Guru of Good. She now advises over 40 large corporations on creating successful social partnerships and helps charities market themselves.

At the Expo, Mannion will present Robin Hood's model of defining what a company stands for to gain a deeper understanding of its brands values that could set it apart from competition. "If you don't stand for something, you stand for nothing… and you don't stand out," Mannion says.

Increasingly in more advanced countries such as the United States, companies are realizing that making their brands speak for what they are and what they do is becoming a competitive edge. After the string of corporate scandals in the States, consumers have become less forgiving and more skeptical about business. Research shows a majority of Americans say companies have a responsibility to support social issues while one in five consumers will pay more for a product labeled as social, ethical or environmental.

> 'We call on business to take the paradigm shift, to make corporate responsibility part and parcel of a business' way of life, and extend help not just by giving, but ensuring that there are efforts to sustain this help'

Last year, market research firm ACNielsen presented groundbreaking research that showed 62 percent of New Zealanders patronized a product or service because of its association with a charity or worthy cause. The study followed Cone's 2002 Corporate Citizenship Study in the States where a survey revealed Americans are 30 percent more likely to switch from one brand to another if that brand is associated with a good cause.

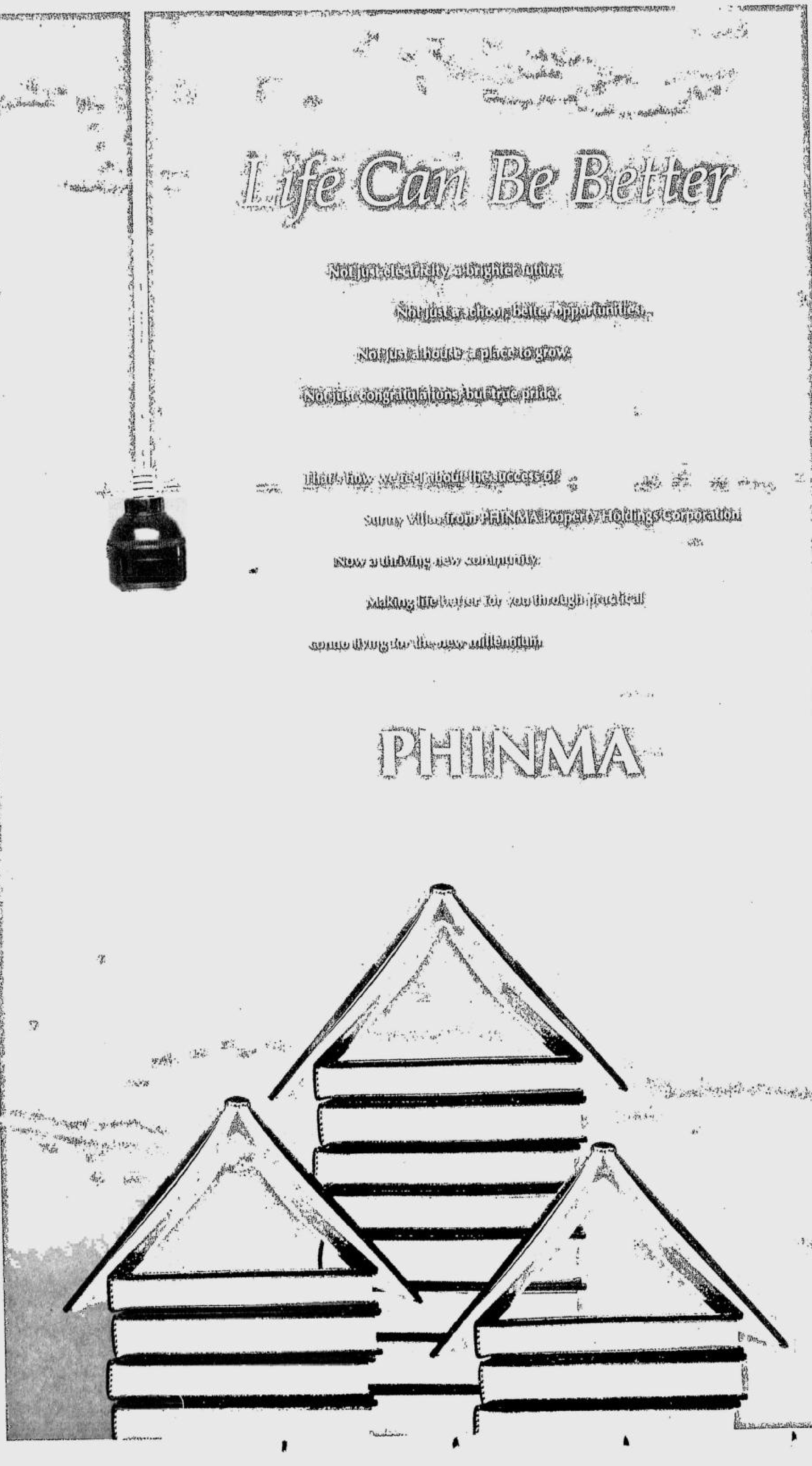
Lydia Sarmiento-Enrile, Program Director of the CSR Expo 2005, said local CSR practitioners and advocates hope the trend catches up soon in the Philippines to bring CSR programs into the boardrooms.

Branding Difference

Unilever's Tex Gunning, meanwhile, represents a global company known for using its brands to spread its corporate advocacy on good health, hygiene and nutrition.

In India, Unilever is involved in an innovative scheme that provides villagers business skills, creating new sales and distribution schemes for its products. In

WHY RP BUSINESS/ F2



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PHINMA

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXPO 2005:

Why RP Business Needs to do Good to do Good

From page F1

Ghana, the company has been successfully selling a brand of iodine-fortified salt that brings essential micronutrients within the reach of low-income consumers.

Both speakers belong to companies that prove that "The achievement of our corporate goals and the need to contribute to societal well-being are inescapably linked," said Roberto R. Calingo, President of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) and Executive Director of Mirant Philippines Foundation.

"There is inspiration to be gained from global companies, which are seen as the trendsetters in CSR. We were hoping to learn from them. Their operations are all over the world and they are faced with poverty everyday," he added.

This year's Expo also features noted local business leaders such as: Jon Ramon Aboitiz, CFO of the Aboitiz Food Group, Gerardo Ablaza, Jr., CEO of Globe Telecom, Warner Manning of HSBC, Ramon del Rosario, Jr., of Phinma, Inc., Manuel Pangilinan, CEO of the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company, and Pedro Roxas, Chair of the CADP Group Corp. Also speaking are Joachim Von Amsberg, Country Director of The World Bank Office, Manila, key government officials led by Education Secretary Florencio Abad, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, and National Economic and Development Authority Director General Romulo Neri, along with other social development and business leaders.

LCF, a network of 59 corporate foundations engaged in social development work in the country, has been commemorating Corporate Social Responsibility Week in the Philippines with a CSR Expo since 2003.

Mirant Philippines is the strategic partner for the CSR Expo 2005.. The Ayala Group, Petron Corp, Shell companies in the Philippines, and Metrobank Foundation are major partners, while the World Bank and UNDP are institutional partners. Philippine Daily Inquirer is media partner.

Sheila Pesayco, Writers Edge

> 'If you don't stand for something, you stand for nothing… and you don't stand out,' Mannion says.

League of Corporate Foundations *presents*

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXPO 2005

July 4-6
Westin Philippine Plaza

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY ONE - 4 JULY
BEYOND GIVING . . . INTEGRATING

8:00 am **REGISTRATION**

9:00 am **OPENING of EXHIBITS**

9:30 am **OPENING CEREMONIES**
Global Perspective: Louis Willem "TEX" Gunning, Group Vice-President - Southeast Asia & Australasia, Unilever Asia Pte. Ltd.
National Perspective: Jose Antonio Aboitiz, Chief Financial Officer, Aboitiz Food Group

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY** by the Ayala Group of Companies *(By Invitation)* • *Speaker:* **Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr.**, President, Globe Telecom, Inc.

2:00 - 3:30 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

CS 1: Bringing CSR into the Boardroom: The Role of the CEO in Determining a Company's Social Agenda • *Panel Discussion:* **Ramon del Rosario Jr.**, President, Phinma, Inc.; **Warner Manning**, CEO, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; **Pacita Juan**, CEO, Figaro Coffee Co.
CS 2: Making CSR an Integral Part of the Corporation's Culture • *Panel Discussion*: **Rosario Ventura**, Corporate Responsibility Manager, Asia, Intel Technology Philippines; **Leonisa dela Llana**, FVP & Head, HR & Corporate Services, Meralco; **Eve Lwembe**, National Volunteering Development Officer, VSO Jitolee, Kenya
CS 3: Prosperity at the Bottom of the Pyramid • *Speaker:* **Prof. Tommy Lopez**, AIM Center for Entrepreneurship • *Reactor:* **Emma Lim-Sandrino**, Executive Director, Foundation for Sustainable Society

4:00 pm **AFTERNOON PLENARY**
Integrating CSR into the Core Business: Stand for Something . . . or Stand for Nothing • *Speaker:* **Jude Mannion**, Founder & CEO, Robin Hood Foundation, New Zealand

6:00 pm **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT** *(By Invitation)* co-presented by Microsoft Philippines and League of Corporate Foundations

DAY TWO - 5 JULY
BEYOND GIVING . . . ENRICHING

7:30 am - **LCF Breakfast with Jude Mannion** (By Invitation) hosted by Mirant Philippines Foundation

8:30 am - **REGISTRATION**

9:00 am - **MORNING PLENARY 1: Looking into Business Solutions to Public Education Problems**
Business Sector Initiatives in Education: Aniceto Sobrepeña, Executive Vice President & Executive Director, Metrobank Foundation and Former Lead Convenor, Trisectoral Conference on Educational Reforms • **Business & Education: Unleashing New Value in Education through Corporate Philanthropy & Public-Private Partnership: Usec. Juan Miguel Luz**, Department of Education

10:20 am **CONCURRENT SESSIONS: Cases of Business Solutions to Education Problems** • *Introduction to the Concurrent Sessions*: **Prof. Ernesto Garilao**, Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Graduate School of Business/ Executive Director, AIM-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides
CS 1: ICT Solutions • *Panel Discussion:* **GILAS** or Gearing Up Internet Literacy & Access for Students; **Connectivity of Schools** by Innove; and **Partners in Learning** by Microsoft, PBSP, and Learn.ph
CS 2: Business Solutions Case Presentations • *Panel Discussion:* Nokia: Media Master; Intel People's PC, and Knowledge Channel Foundation
CS 3: Using Business Expertise Case Presentations • *Panel Discussion:* **Teacher Training Program in English** by Convergys; **Lingap Eskwela** by Manila Water ; and **Bright Minds Read Program** by Ronald McDonald House Charities:

MORNING PLENARY 2: Toward System-Wide Business Solutions • *Moderator*: **Prof. Ernesto Garilao**, AIM Graduate School of Business/ Executive Director, AIM-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides • *Response from the Department of Education:* **Sec. Florencio Abad**

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY: Business Solutions to Social Problems** by Mirant Philippines and The World Bank • *Speakers:* **Joachim Von Amsberg**, Country Director, World Bank Office, Manila and **Sec. Raphael Lotilla**, Department of Energy

2:15 - 3:45 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS
CS 1: Business Solutions Addressing Health Issues of Public Schools & the Community by the LCF Health Committee • *Speakers:* **Dr. Cynthia Cuayo-Juico**, Chair, CSR Committee on Community Outreach, Manila Doctors Hospital; **Mauricio Navoa**, Associate Director, Disease Management, Pfizer, Inc.; and **Alberto Lim**, President, Ten Knots Development Corp.
CS 2: Business Solutions to Environmental Problems by the LCF Environment Committee • *Speakers:* Former DENR Sec. **Elisea G. Gozun**, Chair, Earth Day Network Philippines; **Lisa Antonio**, Executive Director, Philippine Business for the Environment; **Jess Reyes**, AVP and Head, Environment & Safety, Nestlé Philippines; **Tony Casaclang**, President, Association of Food Chains and Environmental & Safety Engineer, Jollibee Foods Corporation; and **Oliver Gorrospe**, Business Development Manager, San Miguel Packaging Products
CS 3: Developing Socially Responsible Youth Business Leaders by the LCF Enterprise Development Committee • *Speakers:* **Nilo Cruz**, President, Junior Achievement of the Philippines, **Dr. Conrado Iñigo**, Chairman Emeritus, Philippine Council of Deans & Educators in Business; and **Ma. Teresa Tumbali**, Chair, LCF Enterprise Development Committee

2:30 - 4:00 pm **CS 4: Business Solutions to Barangay Electrification** • Speaker: **Usec. Melinda Ocampo**, Department of Energy

4:00 - 5:00 pm **Networking and Real-time Consulting**

5:30 pm **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT** *(By Invitation)* Launching of Manila Water's Sustainability Development Report

DAY THREE - 6 JULY
BEYOND GIVING . . . SUSTAINING

8:30 am **REGISTRATION**

9:00 am **MORNING PLENARY: Sustaining Business Action to Achieve the MDGs: Can a decade make a difference?** • *Opening Remarks:* **Ramesh Jain**, UN Resident Coordinator and Representative, UNFAO • *Speakers:* **Romulo Neri**, Director-General, NEDA; **Manuel Pangilinan**, Chair, PBSP; **Pedro Roxas**, Chair, CADP Group Corporation; **Ramon Isberto**, Head of Public Affairs, Smart Communications and **Kyo Naka**, UNDP Resident Representative

11:00 am **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CS 1: Market-Driven Scholarship Program: The Toyota Experience and **Holcim Philippines' Galing Mason, Building Solid Foundations for our Communities Program** • *Speaker:* **Ramon Ventura Jr.**, Project Officer, Toyota Foundation; **Roel John Judilla**, Dean, Mapua IT - School of Mechanical Engineering; **Zita Diez**, CSR & Communications Head, Holcim Philippines
CS 2: Leveraging Core Competencies: The Vietnam Pushcarts Program • *Speakers:* **Stuart Hawkins**, Public Affairs Manager, Coca-Cola Asia and **Huynh T. My Tien**, Corporate Citizenship Manager, Coca-Cola Southeast Asia
CS 3: The Bottom-of-the-Pyramid (BOP) SMART Case • *Speaker:* **Ramon Isberto**, Head of Public Affairs, Smart Communications

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY: Philippine Government's Blueprint on Entrepreneurship** (By Invitation) • *Speaker:* **Usec. Amelia Alonzo**, SME Development, Department of Trade and Industry

2:00 - 3:00 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CS 1: Communicating CSR • *Speakers:* **Marilou Erni**, Executive Director, Petron Foundation, **Regina Lopez**, Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation, **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**, President, Philippine Daily Inquirer
CS 2: Measuring the Impact of CSR Programs (Global Framework) • *Speaker:* **Ma. Divina G. de Leon**, Social Development Manager, Pilipinas Shell Foundation

3:15 - 4:45 pm CSR WORKSHOP: De-Constructing CSR • *Speaker:* **Jude Mannion**, Founder & CEO, Robin Hood Foundation, New Zealand

5:00 pm **INTEGRATION & CLOSING CEREMONIES** • *Speaker:* **Victoria Garchitorena**, Chair, League of Corporate Foundations and President, Ayala Foundation

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SPLASH FOUNDATION INC.

Working to become a model for social development

By Joel Nigos

SPLASH Foundation Inc was established in August 1997 as a new engine for development of Splash Manufacturing Corp, a world-class Filipino company founded by Dr. Rolando B. Hortaleza and Dr. Rosalinda A. Hortaleza.

It was created as an expression of its founders' commitment not only to provide Filipinos with products that at par with global standards but also to help alleviate the Filipino quality of life.

Maurice Ligot, SFI executive director, says the foundation envisions itself "to become a model social development organization working toward Filipino progress and committed in helping the less fortunate."

She adds that as a member of the League of Corporate Foundations, SFI takes pride in practicing corporate social responsibility working together with other businesses and corporate foundations with plans and programs that would help reduce poverty and would create a lasting impact on people's lives.

Livelihood programs

Among the foundation's projects are its livelihood programs. SFI conducts a continuing series of livelihood courses for free at the SFI Social Development Center and in various *barangays* and to other requesting civic and religious organizations. Its goal is to provide income-generating activities to the unemployed. Among these is the "Ganda Mo, Hanapbuhay Ko," a comprehensive six-day course in basic cosmetology. It covers a lecture on techniques and hands-on training on haircutting, coloring, permanent hairwinding and relaxing hot oil treatment, as well as lessons in foot spa, manicure and pedicure services. Graduates of this course get a certificate of attendance plus an incentive—a starter kit containing basic home-servicing tools. A follow-through program, called "Kumusta Na" monitors the performance and progress of graduates. Hand in hand with its livelihood program is the "Libreng Gupit," an outreach project of the graduates and a venue for exposing reciprocity for their free training.

Educational assistance

SFI believes that education is the foundation of a progressive nation. This is the springboard of Splash Foundation's "Karunungan, Kaunlaran ng Bayan" where educational structured classes are extended to children ages 6 to 12 through the Basic Literacy Program that also include computer lessons. Scholarship grants are also extended to poor but deserving students that cover benefits such as free tuition, miscellaneous and a monthly allowance. SFI scholars are enrolled in the college of pharmacy of the University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas and Centro Escolar University.

Children's health programs

To safeguard the health of indigent Filipino children is the Splash Foundation's "Lunas Sakit," a continuing child hospitalization program for charity patients of the Philippine General Hospital, the East Avenue Medical Center and the Valenzuela General Hospital. It covers free supply of prescribed medicines from the day of referral until the day of discharge for a period of two weeks to one month. A bi-weekly visit by a nurse from the Splash Foundation is also done to follow-up on the patient's development.

Complementing "Lunas Sakit" is "Katawan Pangalagaan" program that conducts free medical, dental and surgical missions, including medicines and supplemental feeding to children of the Valenzuela and Novaliches barangays.

> Splash Foundation, in partnership with various government agencies, embarks on projects involving environmental preservation, community building and beautification for the benefit of barangays and their residents.

Community service

SFI also believes that orderliness, safety, care and cleanliness are essentials for a healthy environment.

As such, the Splash Foundation, in partnership with various government agencies, embarks on projects involving environmental preservation, community building and beautification for the benefit of *barangays* and their residents.

It also contributes to nation building, through effective programs that help support some government-led initiative such as the Kalahi program of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). SFI has been in partnership with NAPC by providing livelihood training to Kalahi communities.

SFI Social Development Center

The foundation seeks to make its plans more concrete with the building of SFI Social Development Center in Canumay, Valenzuela, serving as a venue for livelihood training and other community-related activities such as medical missions, free clinics, and also a day-care center for mothers who are enrolled at its livelihood training programs.

It houses state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and amenities designed for livelihood skills development; a classroom for children for the Basic Literacy Program including a library and computers for free use of the students in the community. It also provides spacious rooms that can be used for conducting free clinics or community outreach programs.

In the future, it may also serve as a venue for *barangay*-sponsored activities. The Social Development Center is a testament to Splash Foundation's unfaltering pledge to support the less-fortunate members of the society.

Splash Foundation Inc is a non-profit, non-stock organization committed to promoting the socio-economic, educational and physical well-being of our less fortunate brothers and sisters through humanitarian endeavors. It was recognized as one of the 20 organizations that give hope to the Filipino people by the People Power Movement of President Corazon Aquino and was also awarded the 2004's Outstanding Corporate Foundation in Valenzuela City by the Valenzuela mayor's office. It envisions itself to be a model of social development organization working toward the advancement of Filipino progress.

Splash Foundation's thrust is to create venues through which the corporation can contribute to the bigger picture at hand. Working hand-in-hand with LCF members and the Splash Group which includes Splash Corp, HBC and World Partners Finance, it enables the foundation to achieve both ends—to build a company that is trusted by the market it serves and give back to the Filipino people the support that they have so willingly given them.

SA PAGTATANIM NG PAG-ASA,
MAY UUSBONG NA KAKAYAHAN.

Mapapalago ang kabuhayan.

Sa tulong ng *Livelihood, Community Service, Health Care, Environmental* at *Education* programs ng Splash Foundation, Inc., mapapangalagaan ang kapakanan ng mamamayan. Mabibigyang halaga ang kanilang kakayahan.

Pag may pag-asang tinanim, masaganang buhay ay kayang anihin.

SPLASH
FOUNDATION, INC.
Pagtulong sa Kapwa. *Pagsulong ng Bansa.*

Member: League of Corporate Foundations

The Metrobank Group: Committed to CSR

Philanthropy is the disposition or effort to promote the well-being of mankind, as by working for the improvement of social conditions. Sadly, for others, this word simply connotes short-term alleviation of present conditions, thus equating philanthropy with merely giving alms.

The present social ills of society could use more than just alms giving. If true philanthropy is to significantly address the social issues of the day, kindness should be manifested through more than just dole-outs, but on the basis of long-term sustainability as well.

It is in this light that education is considered as one of the long-term answers to some of the country's more pressing social problems.

For 26 years now, the Metrobank Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of the Metrobank Group, has implemented programs that promote a culture of excellence amongst Filipinos. The Foundation likewise believes in empowering society so that its members are able to realize their full human potential.

As one of the leading proponents of CSR in the private sector, the Foundation implements programs that honor exemplary members of key sectors of society. Just as importantly, the Foundation strives to provide them with access to quality education and thus equip them to succeed in life.

The Foundation's long-standing support to education is concretely manifested in its various programs. The College Scholarship Program, for one, assists disadvantaged yet deserving students finish college. Likewise, the annual Metrobank Math Challenge encourages the youth to hone their skills in mathematics. Above all, its flagship program in the sector, the Search for Outstanding Teachers, encourages mentors to make good in their profession and rewards exemplary career achievements.

In the same light, the Foundation's educational affiliate, the Manila Doctors College, maintains a 30-year tradition of excellence in the field of nursing education.

Through the collective effort of various sectors in the business community, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Week was launched in 2000 by the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) under the leadership of Aniceto M. Sobrepeña. Now on its fifth year, the Expo has grown by leaps and bounds, each time adopting different aspects of CSR to engage other members of the business community in the practice of corporate citizenship and promote its value and impact among a larger segment of Philippine society.

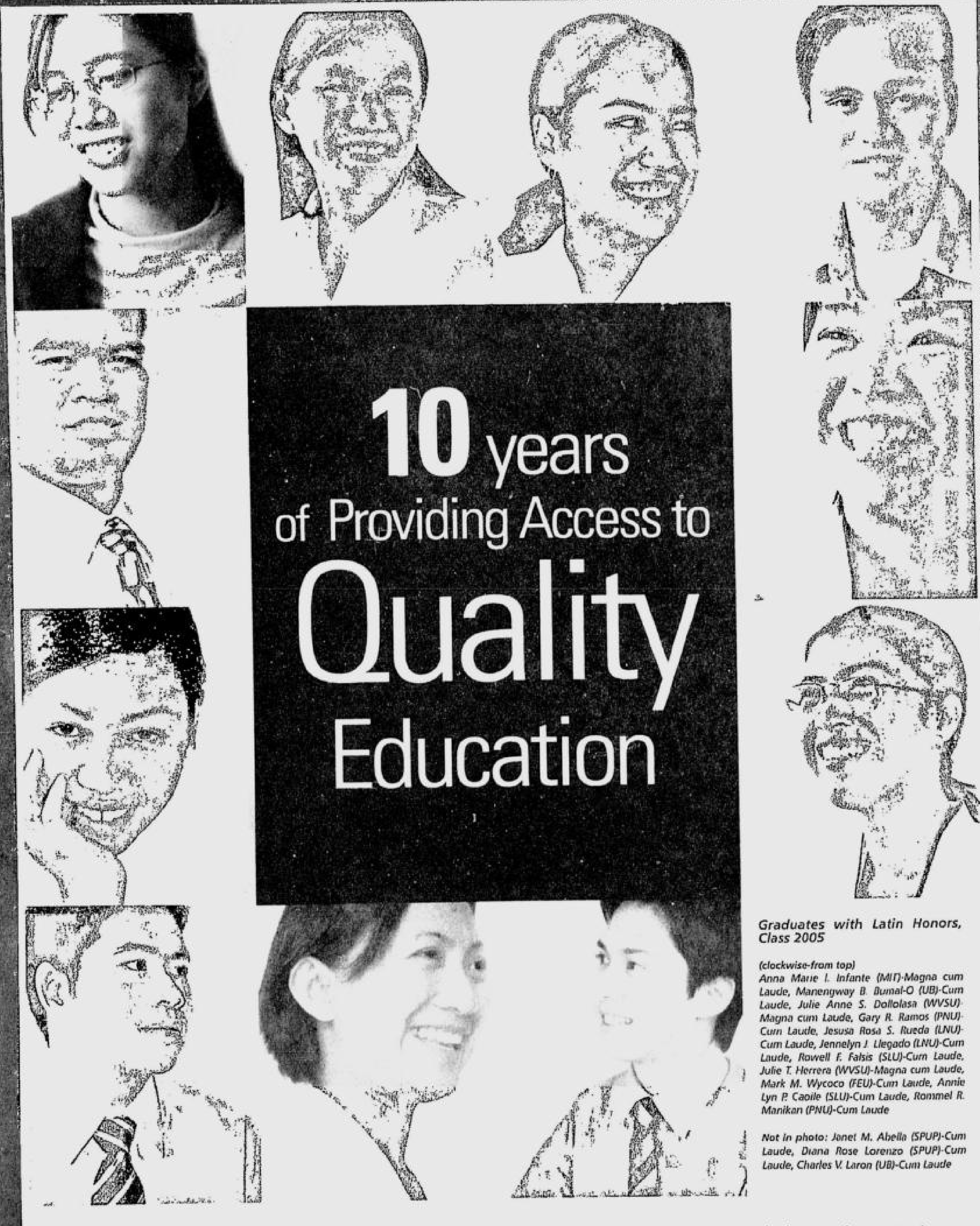
In line with this year's theme of "Beyond Giving: Business Solutions to Social Problems", the three-day CSR Week Expo will focus on solving current social problems by identifying programs that should take place to ensure meaningful social responsibility, under three distinct approaches: "Beyond Giving - Integrating", "Beyond Giving—Enriching" and "Beyond Giving—Sustaining".

Once again, the Metrobank Group will actively participate in this year's CSR Week Expo, which is to be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza. As in previous years, the CSR Expo serves as an opportune time to enhance the public's awareness of Metrobank's efforts not just to maintain its leadership in business, but translate its success into programs that benefit the greater public.

Aside from actively participating in the daily activities of the Expo, the Metrobank Group will also be engaged in the different plenary sessions throughout the three-day Expo. Aniceto Sobrepeña, the Foundation's executive vice-president and executive director, will report on the various education-related initiatives of LCF member-foundations and other concerned stakeholders on Day 2 of the Expo.

The Metrobank Group will also take the opportunity to highlight involvement of its employees through the Purple Hearts Club (PHC). As the Bank's volunteer group, PHC members are spread throughout the country among the Bank's network of branches and actively participate in advancing various social causes in such fields as environmental stewardship, healthcare, arts and education.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



10 years of Providing Access to Quality Education

Graduates with Latin Honors, Class 2005

(clockwise-from top)
Anna Marie I. Infante (MIT)-Magna cum Laude, Manengway B. Bumal-O (UB)-Cum Laude, Julie Anne S. Dollolasa (WVSU)-Magna cum Laude, Gary R. Ramos (PNU)-Cum Laude, Jesusa Rosa S. Rueda (LNU)-Cum Laude, Jennelyn J. Llegado (LNU)-Cum Laude, Rowell F. Falsis (SLU)-Cum Laude, Julie T. Herrera (WVSU)-Magna cum Laude, Mark M. Wycoco (FEU)-Cum Laude, Annie Lyn P. Caoile (SLU)-Cum Laude, Rommel R. Manikan (PNU)-Cum Laude

Not in photo: Janet M. Abella (SPUP)-Cum Laude, Diana Rose Lorenzo (SPUP)-Cum Laude, Charles V. Laron (UB)-Cum Laude

Since 1995, the Metrobank Foundation has given hope to poor and deserving students through its various college scholarship programs. In partnership with 31 of the best colleges and universities all over the country, no less than 745 grants have been awarded for slots in education, science, engineering and business-related courses.

Over the last ten years, the Foundation has spent more than P 70 Million to support its scholars, almost 500 of whom have since graduated. Half of them finished their courses with Latin honors and other academic distinctions or extra-curricular awards.

This year we honor the 7th batch of Metrobank Foundation scholars and we are gratified in our efforts to make social investments work for our collective future. In pursuit of contributing to the enhancement of our human resources, we are even more proud to promote a culture of excellence and celebrate the achievements of our people, especially the youth.

You're in good hands with
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You are made to excel!
METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.
Member: League of Corporate Foundations, Inc.

METROBANK FOUNDATION
College Scholarship Program
Class 2004 Scholars

Assistance for the Completion of College Education for Superior Students (ACCESS)

ANCHETA, Shilah Corazon G. (MDC)
DE GUZMAN, Ruby Ann I. (MDC) – Academic Distinction, College of Arts & Sciences
FERRER, Ma. Theresa A. (MDC)
PALERMO, Maria Cristine B. (MDC) – Academic Distinction, College of Arts & Sciences
ROMERO, Kris Irene I. (MDC)

Excellence in Teaching Program (ETP)

ABELLA, Janet M. (SPUP) – Cum Laude
BANDEJAS, Joemarie A. (WMSU)
BIARE, Khristeen Joy L. (NDMU)
CHAN, Dexter A. (WMSU)
DOLLOLASA, Julie Anne S. (WVSU) – Magna cum Laude
ESTRABON, Jennifer A. (NDMU)
HERNANDEZ, Mary Rose S. (PNU)
HERRERA, Julie T. (WVSU) – Magna cum Laude
LLEGADO, Jennelyn J. (LNU) – Cum Laude
LORENZO, Diana Rose C. (SPUP) – Cum Laude
MANIKAN, Rommel R. (PNU) – Cum Laude
PINEDA, Geralyn P. (NDMU)
RAMOS, Gary R. (PNU) – Cum Laude
RUEDA, Jesusa Rosa S. (LNU) – Cum Laude

Grants in Aid of College Education (GRACE)

BUMAL-O, Manengway B. (UB) – Cum Laude
CAOILE, Annie Lyn P. (SLU) – Cum Laude
CASTRONUEVO, Jo-An C. (CPU)
CO, Francis Salvador B. (AdNU)
DEL MUNDO, Janice J. (MSEUF)
DELANTAR, Carlo C. (AdZU) – Honorable Mention
DELGADO, Aubrey G. (AdZU)
ESTRADA, Mary Ann B. (AdNU)
FALSIS, Rowell F. (SLU) – Cum Laude
FERRER, Dennis M. (SLU)
FIGUEROA, Richard L. (HAU)
GAJE, Sherlyn L. (MSEUF)
INFANTE, Anna Marie I. (MIT) – Magna cum Laude
JAVIER, Jowee A. (UB) – Honorable Mention
LACANLALE, Sheila Marie D. (AdNU)
LARON, Charles V. (UB) – Cum Laude
LIM, Michael Joseph U. (MIT)
MICLAT, Jocelyn Q. (CEU-Malolos)
NELLAS, Stephen I. (USJ-R)
SANTE, Anelyn S. (CPU)
SERRANO, Genevieve M. (AdZU)
SINDOL, Juvy Ann D. (CPU)
TOLENTINO, Randy G. (HAU)
WYCOCO, Mark M. (FEU) – Cum Laude

PARTNER SCHOOLS

ACCESS

Ateneo de Davao University (AdDU)
Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU)
Ateneo de Zamboanga University (AdZU)
Centro Escolar University (CEU)
De La Salle University (DLSU)
Far Eastern University (FEU)
Manila Doctors College (MDC)
Notre Dame University (NDU)
San Beda College (SBC)
Silliman University (SU)
St. Louis University (SLU)
University of San Agustin (USA)
University of San Carlos (USC)
University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R)
University of Santo Tomas (UST)
University of the East (UE)
Xavier University (XU)

ETP

Leyte Normal University (LNU)
Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU)
Philippine Normal University (PNU)
St. Louis University (SLU)
St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP)
West Visayas State University (WVSU)
Western Mindanao State University (WMSU)

GRACE
Ateneo de Naga University (AdNU)
Central Philippine University (CPU)
Centro Escolar University (CEU-Malolos)
Holy Angel University (HAU)
Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation (MSEUF)
Mapua Institute of Technology (MIT)
University of Baguio (UB)

PHC's Dedication to Lend a Hand

SHOWN, at left, is Napolemagne C. Peñarubia of Kagabay I and 2 PHC Chapter and Rowena Judith L. Cruz, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) officer during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Metrobank Purple Hearts Club (PHC) Day Care Center at Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, May 7.

AT A time when the country is besieged by never ending fuel price hikes, a depreciating peso, political instability and calamity upon calamity, hope finds us like a piercing ray of light in murky darkness. After typhoons Unding, Violeta, Winnie and Yoyong laid waste to much of Luzon, the indomitable spirit of the Filipino found expression in quiet but dogged determination to put lives back on track.

Kalinga Luzon was borne out of a strong need by civil society to do more than just provide relief to the typhoon victims. Spearheaded by the Ateneo de Manila University and Gawad Kalinga of the Couples for Christ, Kalinga Luzon is a multi-sectoral approach joined by government agencies, the social development sector, the academe and industry. Using Gawad Kalinga's template for community rehabilitation, Kalinga Luzon employs a holistic approach to developing the relocation sites in Dingalan and Baler, Aurora, Gabaldon, General Tinio, Cabiao and San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, and Roxas and Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro.

Community rehabilitation by Kalinga Luzon involves not only the building of homes, but values formation, provision of health care, education programs to include a day care center, livelihood programs and community empowerment.

Late last year, immediately after the disaster response, the inspiration of the Metrobank Foundation led the Purple Hearts Club (PHC) to seek a partnership with Kalinga Luzon for a deeper level of participation. PHC was mindful that the finances being pooled by the Metrobank community at the time, came not simply out of the abundance of their resources, but from the generosity of their hearts with some of our Metrobankers even opting to set aside portions of their Christmas party funds so that the true spirit of the season may find its way in bringing cheer to the typhoon victims.

Given this, and PHC's bias for nurturing relationships with partner communities, PHC chose to take part in rebuilding Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. It was more accessible compared to the other affected provinces, allowing Metrobank volunteers to join the community builds on Saturdays.

Since May 7, volunteers from Metrobank Nueva Ecija branches, Purple Hearts Club chapters and the HRMG Extended Secretariat have been frequenting the relocation site in Barangay Dupinga to help put up the Metrobank Purple Hearts Club Day Care Center, and duplex houses. Volunteers did excavation work, sifted pebbles and rock from soil and hauled these to fill the flooring, and painted walls.

The volunteers experienced a sense of fulfillment, realizing how meaningful it was to give time and effort in rebuilding lives. Metrobankers came home with renewed hope for the country, as volunteers from other sectors of society joined them, with the same focus—to do as much as they can with all the strength they have for people they may never get to know.

Rotary Club of New Manila East
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The Philippine National Police
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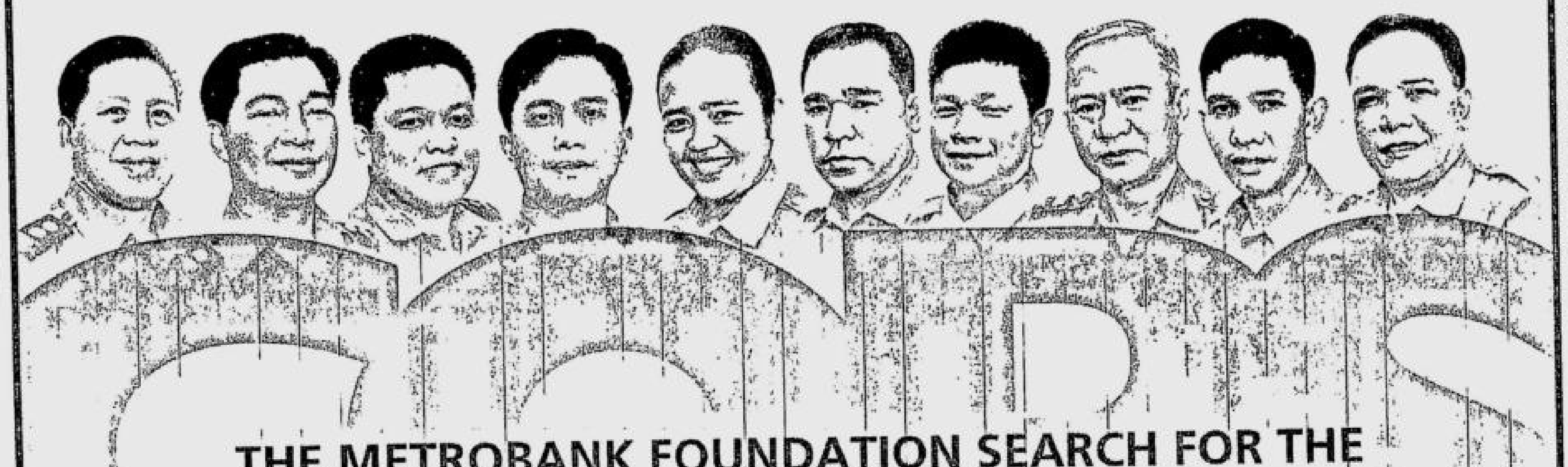

THE METROBANK FOUNDATION SEARCH FOR THE

COUNTRY'S OUTSTANDING POLICEMEN IN SERVICE

2005 AWARDEES

Left to Right • P/Supt. Balba, P/Supt. Corpus, P/SInsp. Descallar, P/Supt. Durana, Jr., PO3 Alteza, SPO3 Bunda, SPO4 De Los Reyes, SPO4 Escaro, Jr., PO3 Gimeno, SPO2 Mabalot

Commissioned Officers

POLICE SUPERINTENDENT BENIGNO B. DURANA, JR • Chief, Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (PACER) – National Capital Region Police Office

POLICE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT JEFFERSON T. DESCALLAR • Commanding Officer, 602nd Mobile Company, PNP 6th Regional Mobile Group, Police Regional Office 6

POLICE SUPERINTENDENT ALFRED S. CORPUS • Station Commander, Kamuning Police Station (PS-10), Central Police District Office, National Capital Regional Police Office

POLICE SUPERINTENDENT BERNABE M. BALBA • Station Commander, Cubao Police Station (PS-7) EDSA, Central Police District, National Capital Region Office

Non-Commissioned Officers

POLICE SUPERINTENDENT ALEXANDER B. MABALOT • Chief Clerk, Police Community Relations Branch, Zamboanga City Police Office, Police Regional Office -9

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER 4 PASCUAL M. DE LOS REYES • Intelligence Operatives/Team Leader, Intelligence and Investigation Branch, Tarlac Police Provincial Office – Police Regional Office 3, Camp Macabulos, Tarlac City

POLICE OFFICER 3 LIZA JANE C. ALTEZA • WCCD Investigator, Inga City Police Station Inga City Police Provincial Office, Camarines Sur, PRO5

POLICE OFFICER 3 JIGGER C. GIMENO • Intelligence Operative, Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division (RIID-6) Special detail with the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response – Western Visayas (PACER-WV)

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER 3 ANTONIO E. BUNDA • Chief, Investigation and Detective Management Branch, Sultan Kudarat Police Provincial Office

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER 4 DOMINADOR B. ESCARO, JR. • Executive Senior Police Officer, General Santos City Police Office, Camp Fermin G. Lira, South Cotabato

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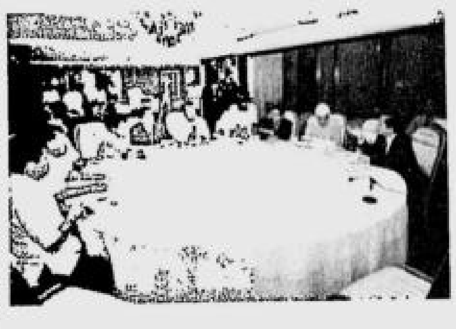
Once gain, the Rotary Club of New Manila East and the Metrobank Foundation congratulate this year's winners in the annual search for the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service. Each of them will receive a cash prize of P150,000. and a trophy, to be personally awarded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on July 7. In honoring their work and contribution to nation building, we hope to inspire their peers and the rest of us with models to emulate.



COPS 2005 Final Judging Process

The Metrobank Foundation, together with the Rotary Club of New Manila East concluded the Final Judging Phase of the 2005 search for the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service last June 1 to 2, 2005. Of the 92 nominees, 20 semifinalists were identified, 8 for the Police Commissioned Officer (PCO) and 12 for the Non- Commissioned Officer (PNCO)

The final judging process was concluded during the last day, with the selection of the Top 10 among the 20 finalists. The winners will be announced through official ceremonial rites to be held at the Malacañang Palace in July 7, 2005. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will confer the award to this year's winners, each of whom will receive a cash prize of P150,00 from the Metrobank Foundation.

Final Board of Judges

The choice of the members of the board of judges was a matter the Foundation seriously considered. As Mr. Aniceto M. Sobrepeña, Executive Director of the Metrobank Foundation points out, "the prestige of our competition relies in part on the quality of personalities who serve as members of the final board." Thus, the foundation ensures that the final board represents the cross section of our national community, which ultimately is really the one who will confer the award to the winners.

COPS 2005 distinguished Final Board of Judges were: Chairperson of the Board, representing Legislative Branch is HON. FRANCIS L. NEPOMUCENO, Representative of the 1st District-Pampanga and Chair of the House Committee on Civil Service & Professional Regulation; Co-Chairperson of the Board, representing the Executive Branch is, HON. MARGARITA R. COJUANGCO, Undersecretary for Special Concerns, Department of Interior and Local Government and President of Philippine Public Safety College; representing the Executive Branch is ATTY. PERSIDA V. RUEDA-ACOSTA, Chief of Public Attorney's Office; representing the Academic Sector, MR. BALTAZAR N. ENDRIGA , President & Chief Academic Officer of the University of the East; representing the Business Sector is MR. RAMON R. OSORIO, President of Campaigns Advocacy and Public Relations, Inc., Board of Director of International Association of Business Communicators, and Columnist of Philippine Star - Business Life; representing the Non-Government Organization Sector is MR. ANTONIO P. MELOTO, Executive Director of Gawad Kalinga; and representing the Media is MS. MARITES D. VITUG, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief of Newsbreak Magazine.

History of the Competition

Since 1993, the Metrobank Foundation has provided support to programs befitting dependents of uniformed personnel of the Department of Interior and Local Government, in recognition of their invaluable role in nation building. This support took the form of grants that benefited primarily the Philippine National Police. In 1999, the Foundation decided to recognize selected individuals who have excelled among the ranks of the police force, highlighting their achievement and promoting them as models who would hopefully bring back public confidence and respect to the PNP. At the same time, the Rotary Club of New Manila East established the Best Community Oriented Policemen (COP) Award in recognition of the important role of the vocational and community service component of police work in pursuit of peace and order. Starting as an award for policemen in Metro Manila in 1998, the competition was expanded nationwide, garnering the support of the PNP, particularly the Directorate for Police Community Relations, and other community shareholders as well.

Coming together and the Birth of a New Program

With the rise of terrorism globally, it has become apparent that the usual police action no longer suffices. More and more, the need for the police to work with the community becomes ever more apparent. Likewise, the Philippine National Police itself launched a program that addresses this particular concern. Under the "Organizational Development, Neighborhood Mobilization, and Continuing Education (ONE)" Program of PNP, community involvement was affirmed as a vital component of police work. With the emphasis shifting to community involvement, the RCNME began looking for partners that would help support and further develop their award program. Sharing in the vision and objectives of both RCNME and the PNP, the Metrobank Foundation began exploratory talks with the RCNME, in 2001. The following year, the partnership between the RCNME, Metrobank Foundation, and the PNP was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement that outlined the parameters of the tri-patrate partnership.

MBFI officers and staff together with subsidiaries, partners and beneficiaries pose for posterity during the 26th anniversary of the Foundation.

THE CHILDREN of GK are treated to story telling activities by Outstanding Teachers of the Foundation.

METROBANK FOUNDATION TURNS 26

Celebration with MBFI-GK Village Residents

Following an elaborate 25th anniversary celebration, the Metrobank Foundation held its anniversary this year in a modest yet meaningful way, together with MBFI officers and staff as well as with partners and beneficiaries of the Metrobank Foundation-Gawad Kalinga (GK) Village in Macebebe, Pampanga.

Residents of the village were treated to a day filled with various activities, which included the repainting of the community's Sibol School, a health promotion lecture for adults facilitated by health practitioners from the Manila Doctors Hospital, a story telling session for children by Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teachers, and a tree planting ceremony.

The Foundation, led by its president Dr. Placido L. Mapa Jr, also signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Gawad Kalinga, represented by GK board members, Bro. Joe Yamamoto and the president of the Metrobank Foundation-GK Village Homeowners Association, Noelito Santos. The event marked the formal turnover of the housing units to its beneficiary residents.

The village was developed from a P1-million grant extended by the Foundation to the Gawad Kalinga program. Announced on the occasion of the wedding of Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo three years ago and intended to support President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's housing program for the poor, the grant enabled the construction of 24 houses in Barrio Consuelo, Macabebe, Pampanga. The village is now a livable community to more than 23 families, translating to 100 beneficiaries.

Officers and staff from the Metrobank head office, Metrobank branches in Pampanga and other member companies of the Metrobank Group, namely, the Philippine Charter Insurance Corp, Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation, Orix Metro Leasing and Finance Corp, Manila Doctors Hospital and Manila Doctors College, generously volunteered their time and effort as they actively participated in the activities.

Gawad Kalinga is a nationwide program of the Couples for Christ Movement, which aims to provide homeless Filipinos with shelters in peaceful and productive communities.

> The village was developed from a P1-million grant extended by the Foundation to the Gawad Kalinga program.

HEALTH practitioners from Manila Doctors Hospital hold a health promotion lecture to adults of Gawad Kalinga.

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Gilas invests in Internet literacy for public high school students

THE GOAL seems like a pipe dream: connect all of the country's public high schools to the Internet and empower young Filipinos by giving them access to an invaluable information and communication resource. But it is the challenge of this vision that has inspired a growing number of companies and individuals to take part in a project that aims to do all that within the next five years.

Called Gearing Up Internet Literacy and Access for Students, or Gilas, the private sector-led project aims to provide fully equipped Internet laboratories to the country's 5,443 public high schools by 2010. Gilas will provide a package that consists of telephone line installation with free Internet access for one year to a complete Internet laboratory with software, hardware and basic computer and Internet training for teachers and administrators.

GiL@S
Gearing up Internet Literacy and Access for Students

Before the project's launch in January this year, only 40 percent of the country's public high schools had computers and only 6 percent had Internet connection. Gilas hopes to improve these figures by initially drawing on the resources and management expertise of private companies that have similar projects and are ready to scale up their efforts through collaboration. A steering committee co-chaired by Sen. Manuel Roxas and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II would bring together government and the private sector for this initiative.

Natural supporters

Gilas has naturally gained the attention of companies with interests in telecommunications and information technology-industries that are closely aligned with the project's requirements. These include Globe Telecom and subsidiary Innove Communications, PLDT and Smart, Bayantel, Intel, Microsoft Philippines, IBM Philippines, SPI Technologies, Integrated Microelectronics, and Narra Venture. Groups such as the Makati Business Club, the connectEd.ph consortium, and the American Chamber of Commerce have also joined to provide much needed resources.

Some of these include business competitors but are now project partners who are committed to the cause and recognize the value of working towards a common goal.

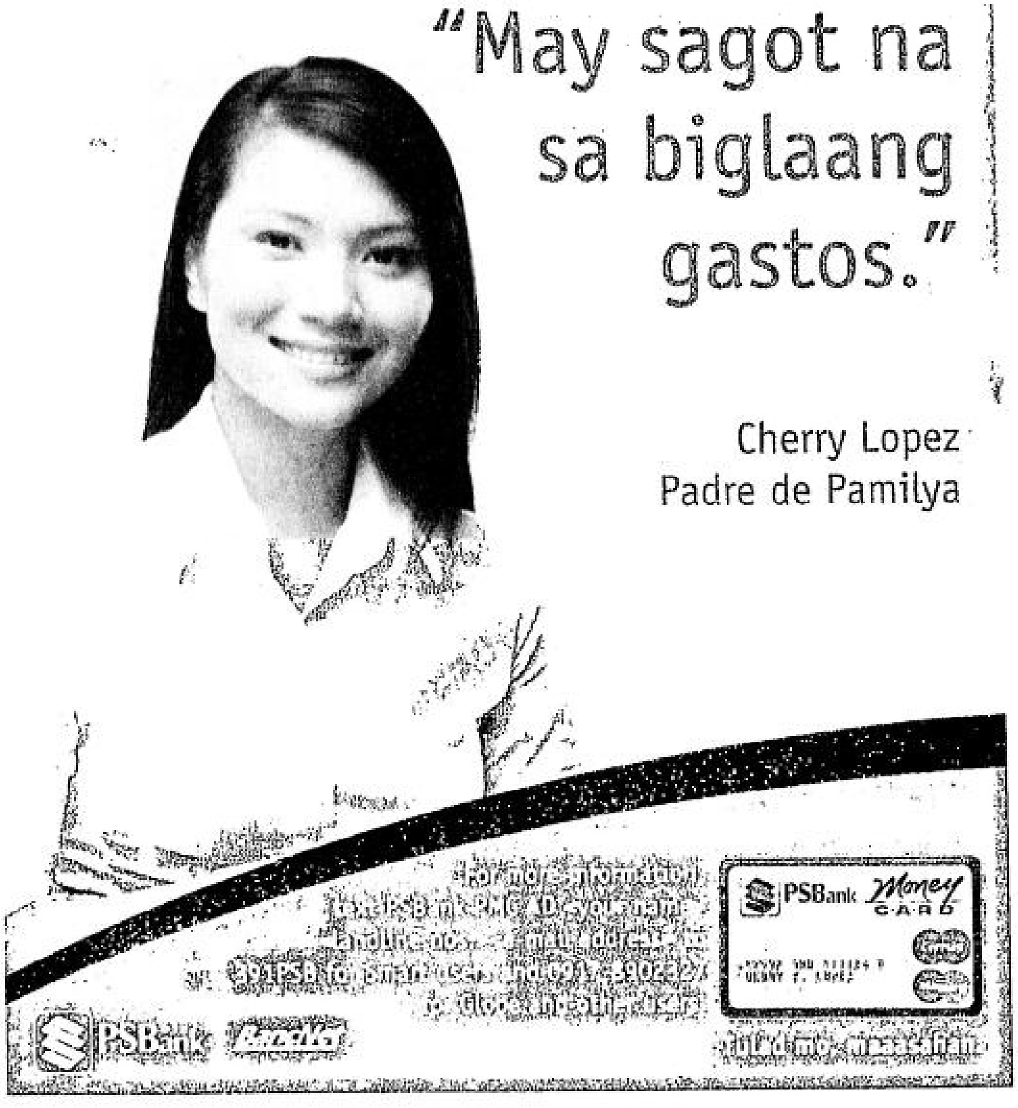
"Ironically, the alarming state of the educational system is proving to be a great unifying factor," said Roxas. "What is keeping the consortium moving forward is that the many parties involved have been incredibly genuine in their desire to arrest the deterioration of Philippine public education."

There is much work to be done given the five-year agenda. There are schools to prioritize based on need and capability to maintain the laboratories for years to come. Coordination with the Department of Education and local government units is necessary to help ensure the project's sustainability. Much funding is required to fuel the dream—approximately P1.5 billion based on current estimates—and Gilas proponents must continually conduct roadshows and presentations to attract potential donors.

Promising case studies

Fortunately, Gilas now has unique case studies that show how Filipinos here and abroad as well as various interested sectors unite for a worthy cause and which, hopefully, would

GILAS/F9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Petron Fuels Hope Through Education

Eight-year-old Cindy Manalese steps to the microphone and sings the Philippine National Anthem with a clear voice in front of a crowd of hundreds of other elementary students. The resident of Pandacan, Manila, wasn't this confident two years ago. She wasn't also as healthy, or as hopeful, before. At least not until she became a scholar of Tulong Aral ng Petron.

Cindy is among 3,000 children from urban poor families in Metro Manila who are being sent to school through this educational program by Petron Foundation. Neither of her parents are employed, and only her mother provides for their family of 9 by running various errands at the school where she is enrolled. Still, Cindy nurtures a dream that she can one day become a doctor, and perhaps help her family experience a better life.

In sharing the gift of education, Petron Foundation is able to fuel hope for the likes of Cindy. Through its advocacy of corporate social responsibility, it looks to being a catalyst for long-term and meaningful changes in society. And it is doing so by helping secure the future of the Filipino child through education.

> This program is based on the simple idea of sending thousands of children from impoverished families to school to receive and hopefully complete their primary education

In 2002, Petron Foundation scaled up its social development efforts for the youth when it shifted from providing college scholarships to enabling elementary-aged children to attend and complete primary school. Studies from both the Department of Social Welfare and Department of Education showed alarming figures in the number of out-of-school youth, and of children who begin schooling but fail to finish, due mainly to poverty. Inwardly, Petron chair Nicasio I. Alcantara and Petron Foundation executive director Marilou G. Erni were analyzing how the company could make a social investment that would create a bigger impact and achieve sustainable results.

"Three years ago, we had a dream. Our dream was to help create a better future for the Filipino children. To take children off the streets and bring them to school, having discovered that there were more than half a million who have no access to basic education," " narrates Malu Erni. She says the dream for the company was to help in solving the most pressing social problem facing the country today: **Poverty**. "Poverty is largely driven by a lack of education or rather, the inaccessibility of education to a large portion of society. If children from impoverished families were just given the opportunity to learn to read, to write, to think, to formulate ideas: and ultimately to dream-then there is hope for the future generation. Education would therefore be one of the key initiatives of Petron Foundation."

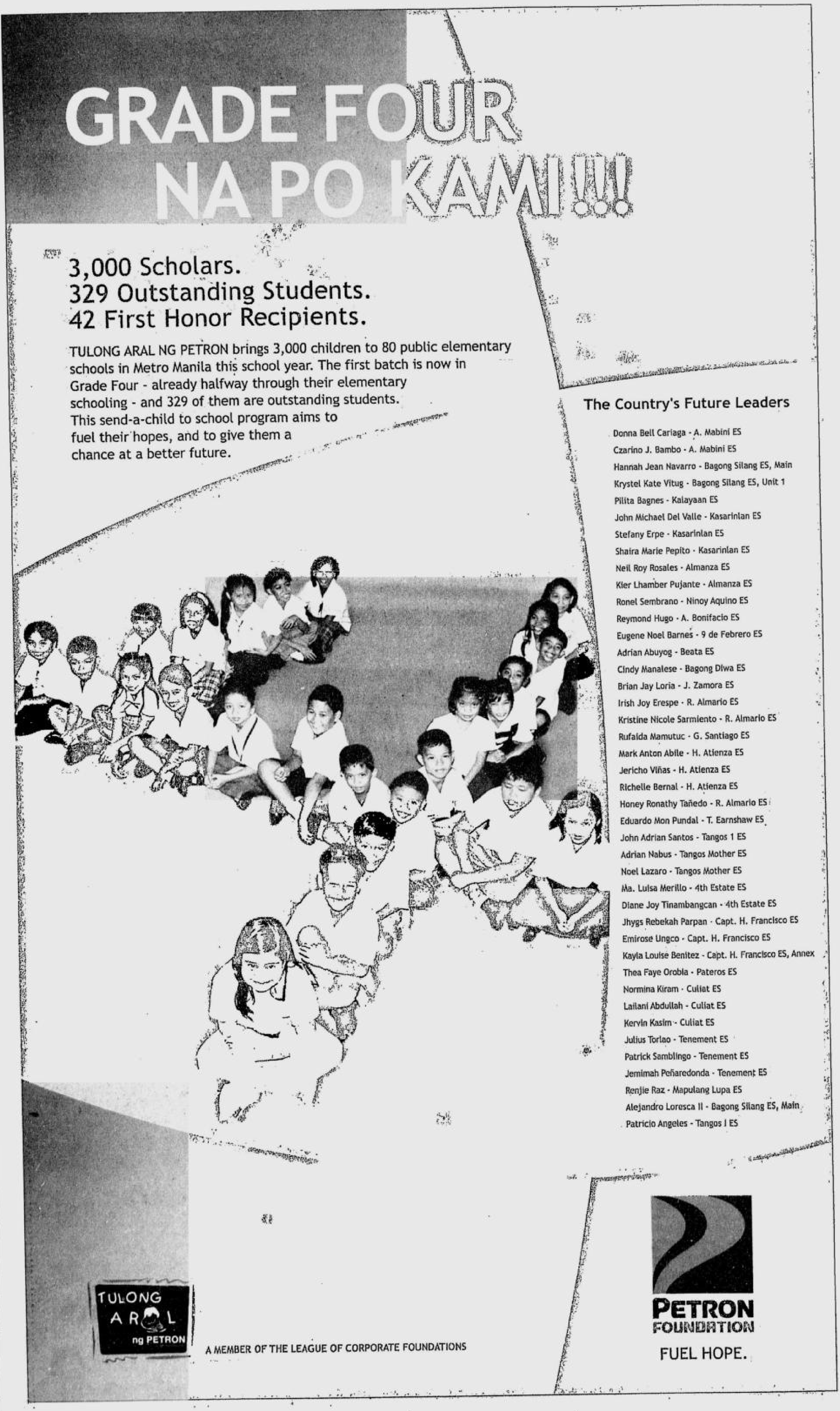
"This program is based on the simple idea of sending a few thousand children from impoverished families to school to receive and hopefully complete their primary education," adds Petron chair Nicasio I. Alcantara. "Yet, its implications are deep and far-reaching for the beneficiaries and their families," he says. "At the very least, it provides for them a wellspring of hope that they can rise above poverty through education. For our employees and our program partners, Tulong Aral gives them an avenue to make a difference in the lives of others."

Indeed, albeit slowly, this send-a-child to school program has been making an impact. Initiated in April of 2002, Tulong Aral ng Petron has since put 1,000 children every year to 80 public elementary schools. Its first batch of students is now in Grade Four, halfway through completing primary schooling. More importantly, they are showing how, given a chance, they can in turn make their benefactors proud of giving them this gift of education. Of the 3,000 Tulong Aral ng Petron scholars, 329 have been recognized as outstanding students, while 42 received medals as first honor students. Grade Three student Cindy is among the 42 and one of only three scholars to consistently become a first honor student since starting the program in 2002.

Equally important, Tulong Aral has forged partnerships with other organizations to broaden its impact. Fueled by the launching of the Tulong Aral ng Petron casebook in November 2004, Mirant Philippines Foundation is now sending children in its partner communities in Western Visayas to school using the Tulong Aral program as its model. Ronald McDonald House Charities, the giant fastfood chain's social development arm, has piloted its Bright Minds Read program to some of the public elementary schools taking part in Tulong Aral ng Petron; it eventually expects all 80 schools to receive the program, which enhances the teachers' abilities to make reading easy and fun for their students. A complementary program, Sa Aklat Sisikat, likewise fosters the love of reading to students through values-laden storybooks. The Foundation's long-time partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and a unique tie-up with Petron Gasul have resulted in a program called Petron Gasul Pangkabuhayan Kart. This initiative is being looked at as a way,to provide parents of Tulong Aral scholars with a means to earn additional income.

The dream of helping Filipino children gain access to quality education also fueled Petron Foundation to build its Petron Schools. A partnership with the Department of Education and the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the three-classroom Petron School has been built in places such as Misamis Oriental, Davao City, Basilan, Zamboanga City, Sarangani and Bataan. Petron Foundation also joined an alliance of Filipino organizations that got funding from USAid to build elementary schools in conflict-afflicted areas of Mindanao until 2006.

All these initiatives on education of course do not detract Petron Foundation from assuming its other mandates on CSR, particularly in caring for the community and the environment. Alongside these efforts, the Foundation continues to work towards sustainable development, specifically in the province of Bataan, where Petron is actively engaged in an integrated coastal management program. And it has effectively rallied the employees from Petron offices and facilities nationwide to make CSR a part of what they do, whether cleaning up the shores, planting trees, supporting relief operations, or donating storybooks. It is a practice that has become common for the people of Petron, who live the trait "Volunteerism in Action" in their desire to make a contribution to society. A desire that by and large finds its way to helping secure a better future for the Filipino children. Children like Cindy Manalese, whose hopes of becoming a doctor tomorrow, is being fueled by Petron today.


GRADE FOUR NA PO KAMI !!!

3,000 Scholars.
329 Outstanding Students.
42 First Honor Recipients.

TULONG ARAL NG PETRON brings 3,000 children to 80 public elementary schools in Metro Manila this school year. The first batch is now in Grade Four - already halfway through their elementary schooling - and 329 of them are outstanding students. This send-a-child to school program aims to fuel their hopes, and to give them a chance at a better future.

The Country's Future Leaders

Donna Bell Cariaga - A. Mabini ES
Czarino J. Bambo - A. Mabini ES
Hannah Jean Navarro - Bagong Silang ES, Main
Krystel Kate Vitug - Bagong Silang ES, Unit 1
Pilita Bagnes - Kalayaan ES
John Michael Del Valle - Kasarinlan ES
Stefany Erpe - Kasarinlan ES
Shaira Marie Pepito - Kasarinlan ES
Neil Roy Rosales - Almanza ES
Kier Lhamber Pujante - Almanza ES
Ronel Sembrano - Ninoy Aquino ES
Reymond Hugo - A. Bonifacio ES
Eugene Noel Barnes - 9 de Febrero ES
Adrian Abuyog - Beata ES
Cindy Manalese - Bagong Diwa ES
Brian Jay Loria - J. Zamora ES
Irish Joy Erespe - R. Almario ES
Kristine Nicole Sarmiento - R. Almario ES
Rufaida Mamutuc - G. Santiago ES
Mark Anton Abile - H. Atienza ES
Jericho Viñas - H. Atienza ES
Richelle Bernal - H. Atienza ES
Honey Ronathy Tañedo - R. Almario ES
Eduardo Mon Pundal - T. Earnshaw ES
John Adrian Santos - Tangos 1 ES
Adrian Nabus - Tangos Mother ES
Noel Lazaro - Tangos Mother ES
Ma. Luisa Merillo - 4th Estate ES
Diane Joy Tinambangcan - 4th Estate ES
Jhygs Rebekah Parpan - Capt. H. Francisco ES
Emirose Ungco - Capt. H. Francisco ES
Kayla Louise Benitez - Capt. H. Francisco ES, Annex
Thea Faye Orobia - Pateros ES
Normina Kiram - Culiat ES
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Patrick Samblingo - Tenement ES
Jemimah Peñaredonda - Tenement ES
Renjie Raz - Mapulang Lupa ES
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PARTNERSHIPS for Progress: Fighting poverty one stepping stone at a time.

GILAS invests in Internet literacy for public high school students

From page F7

encourage more groups and individuals to join the consortium.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAid) pledged a $1-million challenge grant for donations raised for Gilas, with particular focus on Mindanao.

In May, Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu became the first city to have all its high schools connected to Gilas. Under the leadership of Mayor Arturo O. Radaza, 21 public high schools were provided with Internet laboratories. It was an initiative that highlighted the importance of local government executives' participation in empowering their constituencies with quality education.

Overseas Filipinos have also begun to show support for Gilas. At the 3rd Global Filipino Networking Convention early this year, some $20,000 in donations and pledges were publicly announced before President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In particular, one participant of the convention, Angelica Urra-Berrie, vice chair of the board of directors of Russ Berrie and Company, donated $10,000 to Gilas. With the support of the Department of Trade and Industry and Innove Communications, Berrie's donation was able to connect eight public high schools in her hometown of Bacolod City.

Ayala Foundation, a non-stock, nonprofit organization that focuses on education and youth and social development, has volunteered to provide administrative support while its affiliate, Ayala Foundation USA is helping channel donations from overseas Filipinos in the United States to Gilas.

This kind of support for Gilas, just five months since its launch, can only mean good news for the students and teachers who will directly benefit from the project. Zobel explained that Internet access in public places is an equalizing force for education opportunity.

"Our aim is to give high school students the skills to be able to use a computer and navigate the Internet to find information to make themselves more productive and competitive. These skills will enable at least a million young men and women entering the workforce to gain better employment opportunities, which will help accelerate both our economic advancement and our integration into the global economy," Zobel said.

And while businesses that support the project could benefit from a culture of tech-savvy Filipinos, Gilas can have a greater impact on the country's development. As young Filipinos become skilled professionals, they not only improve the lives of their families; they also make the Philippines more competitive in the global economy.

For inquiries, call the director, Gilas Prógram care of Ayala Foundation Inc at 894-5620.

PFIZER CONTINUES TRADITION of LEADERSHIP, EXCELLENCE and COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pfizer Leads In The Search For Cures

Through the ages, people have learned to value the miracle medications that saved them from premature death and disability. The healing wonders of healthcare and modern science have changed people's lives in many ways as seen in rising life expectancy figures that people today benefit from.

In the Philippines, the average life expectancy has been rising from 50.8 in 1954, 61.6 years in 1980 to 64.6 years in 1990, to 68.6 years in 1999, according to Department of Health records. The pursuit of medical breakthroughs and innovation is basic to Pfizer's culture. As the world's leading healthcare company, Pfizer is driven by its dedication to the discovery and development of innovative medicines, and to making these available to patients all over the world. It has achieved breakthroughs in the treatment of a wide range of serious diseases that have long afflicted mankind, including cancer, infections, diabetes, depression, pain, HIV infection, and heart disease.

All these medical breakthroughs that have made people healthier and enjoy a better quality of life longer have been largely due to the resources Pfizer has devoted to research and development (R&D). The company has been steadily increasing its investments in R&D over the past decades to come out with more cures for debilitating diseases. Last year, Pfizer invested $7.5 billion in research and development. In fact, it is now considered the world's largest private biomedical research organization, with research projects spanning highly-valued 18 therapeutic areas- more than that of any other company.

Pfizer's research and development covers virtually every aspect of pharmaceutical research, including that in the emerging field of genomics. The company maintains 8 major R&D facilities around the world, with over 12,500 scientists hard at work producing life-saving, and life-enhancing medicines.

This year, Pfizer sees strong prospects from the industry's premier research and development pipeline and expanding new product opportunities. The pipeline includes advanced candidates in the treatment of central nervous system disorders, cardiovascular disease, cancer, metabolic diseases, infectious diseases, glaucoma, inflammation and respiratory disease.

Beyond Curing People Is Caring For People

Pfizer, through the Pfizer Philippines Foundation, Inc (PPFI), stands firm on its claim that beyond curing people, true corporate citizenship means caring for people. Pfizer, through its various PPFI projects continues to affirm its commitment in serving Filipinos and providing them with joy and renewed hope in life.

PPFI places the Filipino community at the heart of its social responsibility. As corporate citizens guided by the principle of sincere caring and stewardship, it brings its programs well beyond the confines of comfort and into far-reaching areas around the country. To date, the PPFI has successfully designed and implemented a number of community-based programs in partnership with government and non-government agencies, distinguished healthcare organizations, academic institutions, private corporations and other foundations to ensure that our communities receive the healthcare they deserve.

Examples of partnerships include the setting up of virtual libraries at the UP-PGH, UST, Makati Medical Center and Davao Medical Center; the setting up of websites for more than 30 medical societies; educating the public on diabetes prevention and management with Philippine Association of Diabetes Educators, Inc.; increasing cancer awareness with Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment; providing grant to local researches with the National Institutes of Health and establishment of Childlife Centers in partnership with Kythe as well as community programs with other private and medical organizations.

In 2002, Pfizer launched its biggest and most ambitious community program – the Leaders for Health Program (LHP), the result of a tripartite partnership with the Department of Health, the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and Pfizer Philippines Foundation. The program brings together in the local communities another tripartite collaboration among key stakeholders: the local chief executive, the municipal health officer and the community leader.

In its inception, the project set out to work towards the broad goal of improving the delivery and the quality of health care among Filipinos especially among the low-income and far-flung communities.

Two years after its launching, LHP through its vibrant collaborative work has notably realized solid gains among its stakeholders and the communities where it is located.

In initiating and supporting the LHP, Pfizer was able to exercise innovative leadership and demonstrate a strong sense of corporate social responsibility. It was able to contribute in a fundamental and substantive way towards transforming the health care delivery system in the country, helping improve people's health and productivity and spurring economic recovery and development.

Wellness Program

Pfizer

Life is our life's work

THE POWER THAT FLOWS IN EVERY FILIPINO'S BLOOD

It's the power of "BAYANIHAN."
A power all Filipinos were born with.

This power is now flooding the hearts and minds of those involved in bridging the chasm of misunderstanding, mistrust, and religious and economic differences in conflict areas in Mindanao. Through the "Asian Institute of Management-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides," the world's first resource center that seeks out, trains, and supports non-traditional leaders, Filipinos hope to bring about a collaborative relationship that would, ultimately, reduce societal inequities, improve the quality of life, and promote greater human security.

BAYANIHAN. It's the power that can get us through any crisis and build a better Philippines.

CAN MOVE PEOPLE TO UNITE AND DEVELOP THE LAND OF PROMISE

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The Center for Bridging Societal Divides is a joint undertaking of Mirant Philippines and the Asian Institute of Management to promote peace and development and greater human security in the Asian region.